

Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Depression

DECEMBER 1, 1997

BABY BOOM

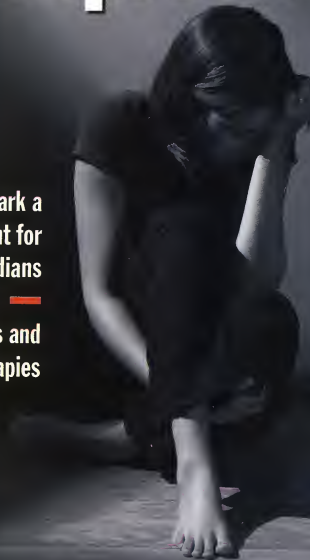


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This Week

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Dealing with depression

Toronto Star columnist Joey Singer is lucky. After depression hit, his employer gave him a leave of absence and, with effective medication, he is back at work. Many other sufferers still find society less forgiving of the widespread, incapacitating disorder



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Dead letter days

The first postal strike in two years shut down mail delivery, resulting in a nightmare for small businesses and charitable fund-raisers in the pre-Christmas season



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Minister of mines

Some Ottawa insiders had pegged Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy as a politician well into the winter of his career. But largely thanks to the international bond-mines treaty, he has become the hottest item in town



From The Editor

Debating the big issues



There was an old-fashioned, Satine-the-air campus protest at the University of Toronto last week and, for veterans of the glorious '60s, it was refreshing—refreshing because it is a society bound by political correctness of the left and the right, it is good to see the big issues debated as they used to be. In this case, the topic is the growing link between the money men and the towers of mammon—and whether, in an era of dwindling public funds, the private sector is curbing academic freedom.

The drama arose because of an honorary degree bestowed on former U.S. president George Bush. In the process, critics accused U of T president Robert Prichard of meeting out his special bill of censure to Canada's biggest pork company. The idea of the demonstration schedule could be heard within the vaulted Great Hall of Hart House as George Herbert Walker Bush, Republican, 41st president of the United States, received his doctor of laws. As the critics saw it, that gesture was a retort to a far less \$4.4-million donation to the U of T by Peter Munk and his America Gold Corp., for which Bush serves as an adviser. The university denied there was any connection. Still, 50 robed members of the faculty, led by celebrated physicist Ursula Franklin, marched out of the hall amid cheers from the protesters outside (page 14).

For his part, Prichard noted that dissent had been a hallmark of life at the 179-year-old university and presided his audience that anti-Vietnam War protesters had received the award of an honorary degree to a Democrat, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Ad-

miral Stevenson, in 1965. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Now, of course, there is one difference: Prichard needs Munk and his money—as well as the other donors—to make up for government cutbacks. Prichard says he welcomes the campus debate and insists that universities have a duty to fund the humanities at a time when corporate money is pouring into business and science faculties.

The issue of corporate contributions—and their impact—has been badly debated this year on campuses from Oxford to York to the University of British Columbia. What has not yet come out of the closet is the extent to which certain professors and certain faculties are indulging in their own classroom censorship.



Prichard and Bush at U of T, the day of the demonstration

At Harvard last year, a Canadian lecturer told me, students before classes were advised not to bother taking notes during a guest lecture by the legendary John Kenneth Galbraith. The reason: they would not be asked exam questions about his interventionist theories in a course that taught the tools of economic policy, not their effects on people. A student at the University of Western Ontario told me that she dropped out of the women's studies program because she was expected to spout back a relentlessly radical line on all topics. Another women reports a similar experience at U of T.

It is well for the university community to debate the role of wealthy outsiders. But as people committed to free expression, it is also imperative that they reflect on what is at their own hearts—and teach with an open mind. Their students do not always have the luxury of protesting to public.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

Confronting a stigma

Mackenzie owes a debt this week to people whose willingness to discuss their experiences with depression provided the powerful human element of the cover package. Senior Writer Joe Chudley discovered that, despite some advances in public attitudes, people still feel there is a stigma attached to their condition. "Some didn't want to talk about their experiences at all," says Chudley. Others, fearful of a negative re-



Writer Chudley the human element

action of work or among their friends, spoke only on condition of anonymity. In contrast, Toronto Star columnist Joey Singer talked frankly about his battles with recurring bouts of depression since his teens. The package begins on page 54.

The postal strike

If Maclean's is not delivered this week because of the postal strike, the recipient will be able to look through private channels and at the Maclean's Online Web site (www.macleans.ca). Subscriptions will be extended by the number of issues hit by the strike. Last week's university issue will be mailed to all subscribers as soon as the dispute ends.

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Tracy and Robert Latimer, unbearable human misery

The case for Latimer

Should Robert Latimer go free? (Koen, Nov. 17). Unquestionably yes. It is time we face the more of mercy killing and recognize the horrible dilemma faced by devoted members of our society. To cast Latimer as a criminal is self-defeating. Jail time for him would be a total waste of resources and time. It would also represent another missed opportunity to collectively examine our humanity and recognize the need to sometimes relieve unbearable human misery.

Steve Goh's Messias,
North Vancouver, B.C.

To say Robert Latimer's actions were justifiable sends an awful message that people with disabilities have a less meaningful life.

Bob Morgan,
Oshawa, Ont. B.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

should be submitted to:
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A father's support

As the father of a severely disabled daughter, I find myself—morosely—without support of Robert Latimer. There has been no evidence at his trials that he acted out of anything other than an agonized concern for the pain his daughter was suffering (though lobby groups for the disabled have bravely suggested his motive was self-interest). Still, our legal system is able to condemn him, colorably with the aim of warning off others. But does anyone really expect a compassionate parent to be deterred by a prison sentence in such circumstances? Only by being less than human, by watching his daughter decline in agony, could Latimer have avoided jail. There is something wrong in a state that places a citizen in such jeopardy, and something chilling in those who say they have no sympathy for his plight.

Gord Risky,
Newmarket, Ont.

Scientology

Your article on the persecution of the Church of Scientology by the German government ("Church of controversy," World, Nov. 17) raises important questions of religious freedom, but fails to mention some salient facts. You refer to the trial of the Church of Scientology of Toronto by 100 members of the Ontario Provincial Police, but you neglect to mention that Justice Jean's Southey of the Ontario Court of Justice (General Division) ruled the raid constituted a breach of the church's constitutional rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It was the least bit absurd and unconstitutional raid in the history of Canada and Southey found the police had acted in good faith in their execution of that search warrant. Moreover, your article does not fully explain the extent of the persecution directed against members of this religion in Germany today. That persecution includes state-sanctioned dismissal from employment by private companies, the intrusion of children from public schools, and beatings of Scientologists. Such measures would not be tolerated by any democratic government that respects religious freedom.

Clayton C. Risky
Council to the Church of Scientology,
Toronto

points regarding this situation shows clearly that the German government's position is not generally accepted outside Germany. The freedom to be involved with the religion of one's choosing is always right for any free-thinking individual and should never be denied by any government.

Guy Trivelpy,
Montreal, B.C.

I was the organizer of the demonstrations that took place in Montreal against the visit of German Vice-Chancellor Klaus Kinkel (Kinkel) had the audacity to attempt to rebuke the religion of the Canadian Scientologists who were demonstrating outside. On his reference to Nazis, history does not tell of a small religion taking over the German government. It tells of arrogant and intolerant government officials trying to destroy minority religions. It is time to confront and resolve this recurring German problem of enforcing hatred and threat against minority religions before widespread violence happens again in Germany and Europe.

Jean Larocque,
Director of Public Affairs,
Church of Scientology of Montreal

MISSING CAPTION

Due to a technical problem, the caption did not appear under the picture on page 79 of the Nov. 24 issue, "Unravelling 97." The photograph was of Gretchen Hoen, discipline officer at the University of Alberta.



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Column



Jane O'Hara When baby boomer women hit Five-O

Statistics Canada may not back me up on this, but I believe I've hit upon an important demographic trend. My sample may not be statistically significant, my polling techniques may be flawed. Still, I am willing to share my research and even welcome doctoral students who need a thesis served to them on a platter. In the past year, I have attended six birthday parties in three different provinces. These weren't any old birthday parties, the kind where you order up a couple of kegs, a dozen pizzas and go home as the party. In each case, the parties were planned and deliberate, indulgent and idiosyncratic. They were big, brash birthday blowouts. Who was doing all this partying? They were all women turning 50.

When you consider that a century ago women were geriatric at 50 and a generation ago our mothers took cover when they reached that "certain age," it's clear that something is going on. Turning 50 may not be the latest feminist issue. But increasing numbers of women are marching into middle life with a newfound sense of economic and emotional security. And they're letting the world know it.

"I just felt like I wanted to have a party," said Kelly Simas, a Vancouver psychologist, once divorced, who hit the big five-0 in August. "I was the happiest I'd ever been in my life. I have work I love. My partner is perfect and I have incredible friends. I could look back at what I've accomplished and see the direction I was going."

For her birthday, Simas rented a yacht on the banks of a mountain lake in the U.S. and, as a gift, an eight-hour drive from Vancouver. She invited 12 friends to come for the weekend and try their hand at everything from fly fishing to kitesailing.

At another elaborate affair, Toronto Ragnor owner Allen Shoght aimed 60 guests to supposedly surprise his wife, Emmaouche. Got that, on her 50th. Part of the festivities took place in a Toronto theatre booked for the occasion. But the real surprise came when the celebrant herself suddenly appeared onstage in a sultry outfit, part Dietrich, part Bacall, and danced to a sexy jazz tune.

Or how about this one? When Marian Marshall, an interior designer turned 50, her back garden in Toronto's busy Rosedale was converted into something that resembled Dick Clark's *American Bandstand*. The festivities were designed in New York City and printed on old 45 r.p.m. records. A tent was erected, a generator was trucked in to run the lights and sound system. The drinks da vinci were martinis and micheladas.

This outburst of celebrating is due largely to the convergence of two major weather systems in the lives of women, one social, the

other hormonal. To put it in its starkest terms, menopause has just met the baby boom generation.

According to the people who count these things, Canada's 4.5 million women baby boomers are turning 50 at a rate of one every three minutes. Over the past 30 years, this demographic moment has wrought many changes for women as it lumbered through the system. Workplace equality and reproductive freedom top the list.

With those battles won, it should come as no surprise that these same women are not about to take menopause lying down. For our mothers, the greatest change of life was thought to be a biological battle against the onset of the menopause. For the women of their most meaningful work, child-bearing and child-rearing. It was goodbye kids, hello empty nest, and a life on the shelf.

For many women, entering menopause is no longer an end, but a beginning. Sure, some mothers still feel sad when their kids start looking for their own apartments. But for others who have been working double shifts—in vacation land and the boardroom—when the kids start buying their first homes it's time to climb on the freedom train. And they're doing it. They're marking the event by taking time to reflect on who they've been and who they want to become. They're moving carefully into what American author Glad Stacey calls "the second adulthood."

It would be a mistake to suggest that all women face their 50th birthdays by popping champagne corks. Some women maintain that once past the half-century mark, they've needed advanced courses to navigate the medical maelstroms of hormone replacement therapy, breast biopsies and bone density scans. One friend, an elegant Toronto

editor bereft from a breakup with her long-term partner, said that when friends wanted to throw a 50th party for her, she adamantly refused. In the end for a new man, she thought that advertising her age would hurt her marketability.

Some grip at the physical changes, the smaller lips, bigger hips, the wrinkles that seem to carve deeper by the day. I know one woman upon turning 50 who decided to try redrawing the road map of her face. She went to a plastic surgeon who performed laser surgery, burning away the top layers of her skin. How did she handle the incredible question "What happened to you?" Rather than admitting what she had done, she blithely replied she had fallen face first into a barbecue.

When Vancouver's Vicky Gubernova, the CBC Radio personality now-in-rehab, turned 50 last year, she wanted no public fanfare. Instead, she celebrated privately by going to lunch with her partner and her two children. For Gubernova, the milestone was no big deal, and she did not go gentle into that good night. "I'm horrified at turning 50," she said. "I want to be 9 again."

Jane O'Hara teaches journalism at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto.

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

The case of the senator who has gone missing

A costly job, this one may be the total cost, top of the line La-Z-Boy special. Liberal Senator Andrew Thompson, who normally represents Ontario interests, has shown up in the red chamber just 12 times since June, 1990. In that period, the august body set for a total of 450 days, which means he was in (and less than three per cent of the time). With an annual salary of \$64,600, plus a tax-free allowance of \$20,100, that translates into roughly \$43,000 per appearance—or \$5,000 more than Thompson's secretary makes in a year.

Last week, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien showed his displeasure by throwing the chamber's top trust out of the Liberal caucus. That is as far as the Prime Minister can go to ensure the 72-year-old senator, hitherto a controversial absentee, the position is guaranteed until age 75. Even so, two 60-year-old Tory senators, Brock Boles and Therese Lavin-Skous, have been telling colleagues they might retire when they turn 70. Chrétien can only hope that Thompson rides the trend.



The Senate:
Thompson:
\$43,000 per
appearance

Escape on the Net

It probably does not appeal to control freaks, but anyone with a high tolerance for serendipity can take advantage of late internet travel plans on the Internet. Belts at Canada's major airlines and the Web only special on weekend getaways to select domestic and U.S. destinations. Although they go about it differently, each Wednesday, Calgary-based Canadian Airlines posts the deals it is offering for the

coming weekend on its Internet site, www.canaire.com. Using the information, customers then telephone either the airline or their travel agent to book the flight. Last week, for instance, Canadian offered round-trip fares, departing Friday or Saturday and returning Monday or Tuesday, between Vancouver and Winnipeg for \$279. That compares with a regular price of \$1,324 for the same route. Manufactured Air Canada takes a more targeted approach. On its site, www.aircanada.com,

customers who fill out an electronic registration form are added to its airline's e-mail list. From then on, they receive an e-mail each Wednesday listing that week's e-tickets. One deal last week, for example, was an Ottawa-Vancouver round trip for \$553, regular fare \$1,480. Air Canada spokesperson Priscille LeBlanc says the e-mail service has about 130,000 subscribers—part of a wave of airlines where the airline wants to turn into travellers.

at groom, bride, and even groom trees. Hardly helped formulate the recycled tale that makes up much of the sold-out in the project. "Someone said I should look at auto fuel—that's the plastic left over after the accepted broken out of auto," explains the artist. "Apparently, a guy in New Brunswick threw it in a field and a bunch of birch trees grew from it." So the artist tried an experiment: planting with auto fuel, which contains high levels of carbon, in his own state and says he had "fresh growth in six weeks." Better than a Garden of Eves?



A Montreal's
sculptor: auto fuel

Plastic paradise

Canadian artist Moel Harding has never been one to shy away from using strange materials. "In my earlier years, I mounted a tree," notes the sculptor. "I've had live children in my woods, live elephants—one had live rabbits." Now 50-year-old Harding is putting fresh touches on The Elevated Heights, a Toronto sculpture/landscape design project sponsored by the Canadian plastics industry. When fully installed, there will be six houses, plastic planters containing mini woodlands



The Barbie battles

It is difficult to say when winning the publicity sweepstakes in the battle over Barbie—the Danish-based Aqua or the doll itself. The first dramatic came in September when Mattel Inc. sued MCA Records, claiming trademark infringement in the European group's song Barbie Girl and accompanying video. Mattel alleges the song con-

veys lyrics that "associate sexual and other unwary themes with Barbie's Barbie products." MCA countered for defamation. The whole brouhaha has helped make Barbie Girl a massive hit and pushed sales of the barbie's album *Appearance* over the seven million mark worldwide. Aqua has another claim on the limelight: a persistent rumor that lead singer Lene Grawford Nyström is dead—a story that started on the Internet and grew to unbearable proportions. According to Dave Watt, a spokesman for the record company's Canadian division, the rumor began in September after the exhausted singer collapsed in New York City and the band cancelled shows and flew back to Denmark. But Watt says that Nyström is alive and well. "She'll better be," he adds, wryly. "The band's booked to do promotion in Toronto and Montreal in December." Barbie, meanwhile, is making news on her own. Last week, the topkicker announced plans to produce a new book, Barbie—a doll with a few voluptuous figure than the original.



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BEST-SELLERS

FICTON

1. *Harry's War*, Michael Ondaatje \$12
2. *The Last of the Great Times*, Jonathan Gray \$12
3. *Long Time*, John Grisham \$12
4. *A Death in the Family*, John Grisham \$12
5. *The Judgment*, John Grisham \$12
6. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
7. *Another Day, Another Year*, David Copperfield \$12
8. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
9. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
10. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
11. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
12. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12

NONFICTION

1. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
2. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
3. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
4. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
5. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
6. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
7. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
8. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
9. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
10. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
11. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12
12. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12

13. *The Nightingale*, Nick Hornby \$12

Alimentary, Watson

The *Shenandoah* Holmes Mystery Cookbook: *Favorite Recipes of the Great Detective & Co.* edited by William Bonnell. Features recipes for 90 dishes in the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They range from 12-course meals of the great country houses to the simpler fare of the struggling Dutch Baker Street landlady, Mrs. Hudson.

Passages



Unhappy, a first-time winner for her tale of an artist who sacrifices his emotional life for his work, received a cheque for \$10,000. Rachel Mowley, 50, the Toronto-based daughter of former Jamaica prime minister Michael Manley, won in the competition category for *Short Stories*. Mercey of a Jamaica Childhood.

DIED: Nobel laureate Thompson 83, who was national leader of the Social Credit party from 1961 to 1967, in a Lingby, B.C. hospital. A former teacher and missionary, Thompson was also an adviser to emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia before returning to Canada and becoming involved in politics in 1990. Under Thompson, who represented the Alberta region of Red Deer, the Socials peaked with 30 seats in the 1962 federal election. He was famous in Ottawa for such remarks as "The Americans are our best friends, whether we like it or not."

DIED: Australian rock star Michael Hutchence, 37, lead singer of the group INXS, in an apparent suicide in a Sydney hotel. Australian's most famous musical export, Hutchence was consistently in the spotlight for his stormy private life and string of beautiful, supermodel girlfriends.

APPOINTED: Former astronaut Roberta Bondar, 51, as head of a new Science Advisory Board of 20 prominent scientists by Health Minister Allan Rock, in Ottawa.

INDUCTED: Retired Pittsburgh Penguins center Mario Lemieux, 39, into the Hockey Hall of Fame, in Toronto. Officials waited the three-year waiting period for Montreal-born Lemieux, who left the game last April with 1,494 career points and six scoring titles.

DIED: Aviation pioneer Philippa Gray, 50, who was a pilot and wing woman in a flying circus, in Ottawa. In the 1950s, she worked on technical drawings for the engines of the supersonic jet aircraft the Avro Arrow.

Dead letter days

Pressure mounted to end the first postal strike in six years

BY BARRY CAME

In Canada Post's tortuous hierarchy, Patricia Sinclair occupies one of the lower ranks. The 45-year-old Toronto woman is what is known as a "fill-in" — a part-time worker, someone who steps in to replace absent postal employees who have managed to earn a little higher up the corporate ladder. As a single mother with three children, she is grateful for the job. It guarantees her at least four hours of work a day at \$17.41 an hour, complete with health benefits, vacation pay, even a partial pension plan. On most weeks, she also manages to put in 40 hours, sorting, coding and bagging the mail at the post office's sprawling letter processing facility in Toronto's east end. Trouble is, Sinclair has been working roughly the same number of hours every week at the same plant in the same "part-time" job for 17 years, a situation she finds "kind of silly." She adds, "They obviously need the people—why don't they pay an some peace of mind and make at least some of these positions permanent?"

There are no easy answers to that question. But it is central to the debate that finally provoked the country's long-awaited postal strike last week, shutting down mail service from coast to coast on Thursday, just before the Christmas season. And the issue was likely to persist no matter what the outcome of the bogged-down negotiations between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers over a new contract. For Patricia Sinclair's lot in shared by 17,000 of her co-workers, more than one-third of CUPW's 45,000 members. In the corporation's complex hierarchy, they fall into various job categories. But at bottom, they are all temporary workers no matter how many hours a week they put in or how long they have been doing it. And they represent both a short-term problem as well as one of the many symptoms of Canada Post's underlying structural woes.

That tension was running high in the negotiations because clear when representatives of the two sides became involved in a post-midnight shouting match in a Hall, Ore., hotel room, CUPW chief negotiator Philippe Arbour was pushed to the door. Later that day, the chief management negotiator, Jean Lefebvre, made a public apology and stepped aside from the talks, to be replaced by a senior

Canada Post manager, Raymond Poirier. Although Arbour subsequently accused Poirier of stalling and trying to force back-to-work legislation, the talks in Hall produced some signs of progress. Both union and management negotiators indicated they were close to an agreement on a formula to convert more than 300 temporary post office positions into permanent jobs.

Even so, the incentive is not much more than a stopgap, post-pandemic initiative, discussions on the fundamental issue of structural reform. "We really have to become more competitive, more efficient, more results driven," argues competition spokesman John Cairnes. "Our essential goal is to modernize a delivery system that is now more than 30 years old."

The union does not dispute that contention. CUPW officials, in fact, reported substantial progress towards a settlement at one point before the talks seemed to stall at week's end. They claimed they were not far from management's position on wages and job security. CUPW's original call for an 8.6-per-cent salary hike over 18 months had been scaled down to something closer to the corporation's offer of 3.3 per cent over two years, as long as it included a supplemental increase built into inflation. Both sides appeared to have drawn strength from the number of positions likely to be affected by changes in staffing and restructuring.

The last major issue, the way the mail is actually delivered, Canada Post is believed to be seeking agreement to, among other mea-

sure, limit 18-month-old drivers, putting new full-time and 12-station employees out of work. The union's reaction to the new rules, however, was far from positive. "It's not a fair compromise for corporate clients. I don't think the union is being realistic," Sargent maintained. "They're paid \$17 an hour for work that takes five or six hours, but they get paid for eight. That's not the real world."

Much the same kind of concerns were voiced in Halifax by Kent Groves, president of Maritime Trading Co., the largest mail-order business in Atlantic Canada. He complained that his company, which sells products such as bottled salmon and East Coast trout, suffered even before the strike was officially called, as orders "drained down to a trickle." On Wednesday, the day before the national strike, the company received only seven orders, well off the normal level between 40 and 60. "This isn't fair," he said. "It isn't right. It's really reducing our ability to compete in a very competitive environment." And Groves, who is also director of public relations for the Maritime Direct Marketing Association, pointed out that at least half of the organization's 400 members are charitable organizations. "I feel for them," he said. "Their mandate is to raise money for people who really need it."

The Canadian Diabetes Association annually raises \$3.3 million, the bulk of it in the period leading up to Christmas and just after the New Year. "It's a really important time for us," said Angie Macle, who is in charge of the association's direct mail operations. "Twenty per cent of the responses come from the time we mail." One of the organization's major mailings, in fact, were mailed by the postal strike—one targeting 50,000 membership renewals, the other a Christmas package highlighting programs in need of funding that was supposed to be mailed to 70,000 post donors. "This is definitely serious for us," said Macle. "Each day that passes, we potentially lose thousands of dollars."

While there are no accurate methods to measure the economic impact of a prolonged strike, Catherine Swift, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, pointed to studies that indicated the last lengthy postal strike—a six-week shutdown in 1980—took \$3 billion out of the Canadian economy. "There's less revenue on the postal system now, what with faxes and email and electronic banking and the like," said Swift, "but it's still heavily used." Especially by the CFB's 48,000 members, 60 per cent of which are companies with fewer than 30 employees.

Not everyone is suffering, however. Malcolm St. George, co-owner of a Halifax outlet of Mail Boxes Etc., which serves as agent for several large couriers, reported that his shipping and packaging business is up by between 40 and 50 per cent as a result of the strike. People, he added, are discovering there are reasonable alternatives to the post office. Of the new customers he saw last week, he said, "a lot are just latched off at the post office and have the option of being sent here and that there is an alternative."

That was a view shared by many last week. "It's all just so unfortunate," fumed Swift. "I can assure you there will be dating in the streets when the day arrives that none of us ever have to depend on Canada Post again." In Halifax, Groves pointed to the 17 postal strikes that have occurred in the past 30 years, arguing that the government should strip postal workers of the right to strike. "The record leads you to believe that the problem is not a very effective philosophy for that organization," he said. "It just doesn't make any sense to give the right to strike to any organization which has a monopoly."

While most of the strikers' mounting picket lines across the country last week were likely disagree with that view, some postal workers were more than ready to leave the picket lines. Among them was Patricia Sinclair, fresh from picket duty outside Toronto's huge letter processing facility. "None of us really want to be on a strike, right now," she said. "I'm sure that thing could be settled if it all went down as it is a little harder to communicate." On that point, at least, few would argue.

PHOTO BY JESSAM BURGESS in Halifax, DAVID KESLER in Calgary and JAMES FLORES in Toronto



Romanow's reign

The premier has found a winning strategy

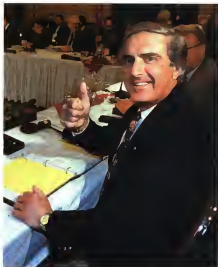
BY DALE EISLER

It was one of those moments of self-deprecating humor that, in retrospect, sounded like a prediction. Shortly before becoming premier of Saskatchewan in 1995, Roy Romanow could not resist pointing his at his armpit under some New Democrats who questioned his allegiance to the hard-nosed principles of social democracy. Being Saskatchewan—birthplace of the NDP's forerunner, the Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation, and Canada's first medicare system—NDP leaders are expected to measure up to such icons as Tommy Douglas. So, rather than defend his fidelity to a party he joined in the midst of the 1962 pandemic debate, Romanow decided on levity. "You know me," he told a reporter. "This local and determined to give Saskatchewan people the Liberal government they've always wanted."

Six years later, at the midpoint of his government's second term, some believe Romanow has lived up to his word, even if he was only joking. Although the New Democrats inherited a financially crippled province—after nine years of Grant Devine's Tories, the annual deficit had ballooned to \$842 million—they brought down a balanced budget in 1994, Saskatchewan's first in 33 years.

Along the way, Romanow has presided over a massive restructuring of the province's health-care system. (Including the closure of 32 rural hospitals), cut grants to municipal governments, reduced education spending and raised taxes. But unlike other governments in a fiscally conservative age, he stopped short of cutting welfare benefits. And now, with his government headed for its fourth consecutive budgetary surplus, sources say Romanow intends to cancel his mark on the social policy front with an initiative in next spring's budget to attack family poverty.

In short, he is a government guided by pragmatism and a social conscience—the winning strategy used for decades by the federal Liberals. And so far, that approach has been just as successful for Romanow. His government's approval rating consistently runs at 80



Romanow: pragmatism, a social conscience and a new right-wing challenge

percent or better, and there is little sign of any major erosion in NDP support. "There's no doubt Romanow has been given credit for running a tight ship and getting the province back onto feet," says Bruce Eaton, president of Winnipeg-based polling firm Demos Research. "There's a sense things are back under control."

But in the turbulent world of Saskatchewan politics, voter loyalty can swing rapidly from one side of the political spectrum to the other. And Romanow's popularity may be as much a result of the fractured state of the political opposition as it is of his government's record. The ongoing fraud trials involving former members of the Devine government have turned into Canada's longest-running political scandal. So far, 50 former MLAs and two caucus employees have been found guilty of taking part in an \$890,000 fraud involving allowances for communicating with constituents. Last week, the trial of an 11th MLA continued while five more Saskatchewan Tories

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CANADA FOCUS SASKATCHEWAN

switched benches. Among them is Senator Eric Bernice, a deputy premier in Devlin's government, who is charged with leading the province's new legislative committee on the environment, as well as the newly formed \$125,000 in Tory caucus funds to the party. He has pleaded not guilty to both charges.

For the once-mighty Tories, the damage has been fatal. In early November, the party decided to suspend operations for at least the next two elections. As a result, many Conservatives have decided to cast their lot with the Saskatchewan Party, created last August when four Tory MLAs and four disillusioned Liberals banded together in the legislature to form the official Opposition. Borrowing heavily from federal Reform policies such as the recall of politicians, smaller government and lower taxes, the party—which held its first convention last week in Saskatoon—hopes to become the dominant right-wing alternative to the NDP. "There was just no point continuing," concedes former Tory leader Bill Boyd, a driving force behind the creation of the new party. "With the trials dragging on, we were facing a hopeless situation." Still, the decision to drive a stake through the heart of the Conservatives was far from unanimous. "I am opposed by the majority, but those people are no longer part of the party and I think we should have moved on and weathered the storm," laments Saskatoon lawyer Nick Steinhilber, who took over the Tory presidency in 1995.

The situation for the Liberals is scarcely better. Internal divisions and personality conflicts led to the 1985 ouster of former leader Lynda Flaxman, who now sits as an independent MLA. Things have not improved under new leader Jim McLeischak, who grudgingly switched his party's status as Official Opposition last summer as five of his 11 MLAs deserted, four to the Saskatchewan Party and one to sit as an independent with Flaxman. Some Liberals are saying privately that McLeischak, a medical doctor who lacks a seat in the legislature, should resign so the party can rally around a new leader. But others fear that dropping another leader will further damage the party's flagging credibility.

With the Liberals in disarray and the Saskatchewan Party in its embryonic stages, Bernice's bid for power appears firm. The NDP has been the dominant par-

ty in the province for 37 of the past 53 years. And Romanow, first elected to the legislature in 1987, is one of Canada's most visible politicians. As attorney general in the Allan Rock government, he was a key behind-the-scenes figure, together with Jean Charest, in finding the formula that led to the province of the Constitution in 1982. As premier, meanwhile, Romanow



Bernice, for the once-mighty Tories, the damage caused by multiple fraud charges has been fatal.

has maintained a high profile role in unity issues, while often talking about the need to redefine social democracy in an era when deficit fighting and free trade have limited government's ability to intervene in the economy.

Ultimately, his political foes say, the Romanow approach will fail. "Saskatchewan people pay the highest taxes in Canada—and yet see services deteriorating," says Saskatchewan Party interim leader Ken Kruttschnitt. "Sure, Romanow had sympathy when he had to fight the deficit issue. Those days, though, are gone." Perhaps that will be a credible alternative emerges from the rubble of the Saskatchewan opposition, Romanow's risk of being a politician looks like the only game in town. □

THE MIDDLE ROAD

Unlike several of his counterparts, Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow has presided over cuts in government spending with relatively little protest from voters. Now midway through his second term, leading a balanced budget but facing a new challenge from the embryonic Saskatchewan Party, Romanow spoke to Maclean's Calgary correspondent Dave Esler. Excerpts.

Maclean's: The Saskatchewan Party is presenting itself as a right-of-centre alternative to the NDP. Do you see it as a threat?

Romanow: It could be. But as we head into the 21st century, I don't think the politics of confrontation, which is what the Saskatchewan Party in many ways represents, is where the public is at. The mood says a balanced, moderate, progressive approach to fiscal and social policy is the best way to keep our economic base alive, while at the same time meeting the needs of people. The policies of the Saskatchewan Party are not in the mainstream—I believe the predominant mood in Saskatchewan is non-alignment.

Maclean's: Critics say that you have balanced your budget simply through tax increases, and that the NDP remains a party of big government. How do you respond?

Romanow: The fact is, the Fraser Institute and the Investment Dealers Association of Canada have said on a per capita basis we have the smallest or second-smallest government in Canada. As for tax levels, we'd like to reduce them and we have where we've been able. The sales tax has been cut from nine to seven per cent [the Romanow government itself had raised it to nine in 1992], the income tax debt surcharge has been reduced by \$150 a person and we've made other targeted tax cuts.

Maclean's: But critics say your government has abandoned its principles, and that your brand of fiscal conservatism is no different from that of other governments.

Romanow: Back in 1944, Tommy Douglas faced the same problems of debt we confronted. It took him 18 years before he introduced Medicare because he waited until the province was able to afford it, and he had much of his debt forgiven by the federal government. When we took office, Saskatchewan's debt was held by international bondholders and they are less sympathetic. Secondly, while we have made cuts, we've done it within a social democratic framework. If I'd corporate us to others, I think you'd find that we always sought to protect the weakest and most vulnerable.

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Lloyd Axworthy's career has taken flight with a new campaign

The foreign affairs minister, taking at his title of at issue that his political opinion

Second wind

BY BRUCE WALLACE

SPECIAL REPORT

Like the cherry, can't do, produce (overall) political culture of mid-20th-century Ottawa, Lloyd Axworthy should be about as fashionable as flower power and peace signs. The caricatures of the man and his politics are deeply rooted: a headstrong politician laden with old lefty ideas and given to anti-American rants, surviving only because his legendary porpoise-hurling skills make him intolerable in his Winnipeg riding. Sure, he might be fierce minister now—how much harm can one man do in that portfolio during these inward-looking times? After three decades in politics, his reputation required needed, his epithets already written. At a dinner for a departing ambassador in

Ottawa earlier this year, Mitchell Sharp—the doyen of the Liberal party and an old External Affairs hand himself—glared across the table at Axworthy and joked that he didn't see a foreign minister; he saw a man who has lavished more gifts on his constituents than any politician in the country. That conventional wisdom—and Ottawa snailshell conservatism—domes whole—suggested Axworthy was a politician whose future was behind him.

How deliciously surprising, then, that he is now the hottest cabinet minister in town, the one with mull pulled to his head. Axworthy sits at the tail of an issue that has become the global driver of the year. Fourteen months ago, he courageously challenged foreign

governments to come to Ottawa by this December to sign a city banning the use and production of subsonic lead mines. At the time "people laughed and giggled," Axworthy recalled last week. Advisers in Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's office were, to be polite, skeptical. "Lead mine?" we all asked," says a laughing Sharp, who is a special adviser in Chrétien's office. "People were saying, 'We don't have a lead-mine problem.'"

But Axworthy had tapped into a diplomatic mine that was developing: transnational movements from world public opinion. It was powered by a disheveled coalition of mid-to-power governments and international activists, then energized by the sugar rush that came after Diana, Princess of Wales, made her cause, too. A few countries resisted the pull: China, the United States, and an assortment of predictable rogue states and those still wary of up-and-coming at their borders. But most responded to the irresistibly noble desire to expunge a weapon that indiscriminately maims or kills its victims—most of them civilians. On Dec. 3, delegates from more than 50 nations will come to Ottawa for a formal treaty signing ceremony—with Axworthy presiding.

In achieving up a high-profile success for a Liberal government desperate for political winners, Axworthy has seen his prestige soar. Not that anyone is about to accuse him of suddenly developing star quality. At 57, he is emphatically sticks to his mumbly style of public speaking. Young Liberals do not squeal when he steps

from his government line; that polling shows that approval for his anti-lead-mines crusade turned at an astounding 85 per cent among Canadians—who passers for political reasons—during the world-wide tour. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize (which was won by a U.S.-based advocacy group, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines). And even his old friends in the alienating world of Montreal politics are plotting a testimonial dinner. "What Axworthy has done with land mines is important," says former foreign minister Joe Clark, now living in Ottawa and still active in international relations through his news and think-tank connections. "His accomplishments in foreign affairs are exempt enough from our normal Canadian controversies that they can help to a bit of nation building, and that's something we badly need."

That level of unmythical talk reinforces Axworthy's own instincts: He retains faith in an activist Canadian foreign policy that sounds almost quaint under a Prime Minister who tends to see the international community as little more than a great place to do business. "I do have a belief that this country makes a difference, that we have a special vocation," Axworthy said in an interview with *Montreal's* last week in his Parliament Hill office, standing at times to relieve a sore back after eight days of shuffling through the Middle East on a Challenger jet. "Not that we're better than anyone else. But our history and experience shows that you can use politics to build bridges. And the lead-mines issue has been helpful in that all of a sudden people are saying that Canada can make a difference. They are asking what Canada can do."

Axworthy, of course, has a pageant of ideas on where to go from here. He is starting to reforge Canada's foreign policy for a post-Cold War world, adding new programs like "the human security agenda"—a sweeping term covering everything from safe drinking water to preventing human rights abuses—to Canada's traditional role as a modest middle power and peacekeeper. Trying to strike while the iron is hot, he asked the cabinet last week to commit \$100 million for a second phase of action on land mines, focusing on mine removal and the physical rehabilitation of their victims.

More boldly—and perhaps even recklessly—Axworthy has declared his intention to lend the same kind of cohesion that produced the Ottawa land mine treaty in a crusade to stop the spread of small arms to the planet's darker corners. In unstable places, battered Balkan states held together by tape can be a far greater threat to civilians than conventional, hi-tech weapons systems. The small-arms plan was formulated in typical Axworthy fashion, he lit up when officials brought the idea to his attention last summer and he announced his desire to pursue it with little warning to surprised cabinet colleagues. After all these years, he remains a solo act. "Lloyd's got lots of ideas, some good, some not so good," says one Chrétien adviser, who counts himself among the many who support the small-arms initiative.

But having seen his activist approach jog off as land mines, Axworthy is comfortably back to work. "In 30 years, I've never seen him happier," says Winnipeg businessman Ray Ager of his long time friend. "You can trace his style back to his values as a student activist. Lloyd was a very sincere, idealistic kid." Loyalties may be rather cold, academic disclaimer hints a passage to help friends and the vanguard, a private drive motivated after he and his wife, Helen, adopted a son.

Now, he equates his attitude to come up with the next big idea ("everybody was walking around for days asking: 'What is human security?'" laughed one Foreign Affairs official), both rule rising and inspiring supporters with his typically curious, intellectual and often unfocused style. "Other ministers ask 'What's the problem?'" and one senior Liberal adviser "Lloyd asks 'What's the world?'"

Lloyd Axworthy's early world view was forged in the mood of anxiety of Winnipeg's lower-income North End, on a street lined with war, post-Second World War houses, where others were

Approval for Axworthy's anti-land-mines crusade runs at an astounding 95 per cent of Canadians

sometimes earned high. "As a kid, you grew up playing basketball for the Community Polish Association, or going to a Ukrainian wedding on a Friday night and you learned how to work together," said Axworthy. "I developed a strong reaction against any kind of discrimination and intolerance."

The 1950s were a sleepy time, but Winnipeg seemed every minute so to outsiders. "A boy next girl in Winnipeg and who cares?" was the title of a glossy 1950 essay by novelist Hugh MacLennan, recounting how an American publisher expressed his view of Canadian dullness. But Winnipeg had its own protest culture, too, remembers Tara Kent, who edited the *Winnipeg Free Press* in the late '50s. Kent would later become a central figure in many of the national social reforms such as medicare as an adviser to Prime Minister Lester Pearson. "The North End was the one radical hotbed that had been an extremely conservative province," Kent recalls.

Axworthy's street attitudes were complicated by the Christiana activities dashed from his family's United Church hall, largely stifled by his mother, Gwen. "My mother was always doing community work," recalls Bob Axworthy, the youngest of four Axworthy brothers and the only one still living in Winnipeg. Her mother, Theresa, said: "You now live in Toronto, while Trevor is in Switzerland." "We'd come home for dinner and she'd have a prisoner from the Stony Mountain penitentiary sitting across from you." Lloyd still attends the United Church—modifying a British political reputation, he calls it the "Liberal party on its knees"—and says he retains the belief that "your faith is demonstrated by what you do and that, as a Christian, you have obligations."

The fusion of those beliefs to party politics came when Axworthy was in high school and heard Premier speak at the old Civic Auditorium. Pearson was had recently won his Nobel Peace Prize for helping resolve the 1956 Suez crisis by proposing to send UN peacekeepers to the region. Axworthy was a white, middle-class, Jewish kid, a model for young men's ambitions (distant cousin). "Pearson talked about a special role for Canada," Axworthy recalls. "I went in a jock, and left saying, 'Hey, there's something interesting about this guy.' I suppose I came out with a sense of what being a Liberal was, and what Canada was. If there was one political hero of mine it was Mike Pearson."

After completing an undergraduate degree in Winnipeg, Axworthy moved to Princeton University in New Jersey for graduate work in the early 1980s. It was the era of civil rights activism in American campuses and Axworthy drifted down to Martin Luther King's historic marches in Selma and Birmingham, Ala. "I remember the great thing after Birmingham when we finished that march and were all crapped out and we had people like Mahalia Jackson and Harry Belafonte there. It was a very special time, and when you're 21 or 22, that still makes a big difference to your life."

After graduate school, Axworthy had a brief fling with the NDP when he got "chickened out" with the Liberals over the 1989 Baccara roadside crisis (Pearson then in opposition, argued that Ottawa should accept the handcuffed U.S. journalist as Canadian soil—



With Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat: a crusade to stop the spread of small arms

splitting his party in the process. "But I found the NDP too rigid," Axworthy says now. "I like a debate. I don't want the truth spelled out for me." He was back in the Liberals held by the fear of the 1988 leadership race, supporting John Turner over Pierre Trudeau. "I've gotten really used to the pragmatism of politics," he says, skewering suggestions of idealism. "I know what's just part of the game."

The game included establishing a solid political base in Winnipeg—not as the rambling North End of his youth but further south, around the downtown University of Winnipeg where he had helped found a centre for urban studies to test those "Canadian on public housing" lie was twice elected to the Manitoba legislature in 1979 because the emboldened of an endogenous political species: a federal Liberal capable of winning a riding in Western Canada. He held two senior portfolios in the Trudeau government, including Transport and to stay alive made sure that any scattering of federal money in Winnipeg was seen to come directly from his fingers. "How thick he'd let me deliver one cheque for \$5,000?" says Bob Buckstad, who was a St. Boniface MP and the only other western Liberal in the last Trudeau government. After all these years, Buckstad, who left the Commons in 1984, is still bitter. "He never allowed me a fling," he adds. "But people warned me. 'They

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aid. "Bob, Lloyd's a bit for him. He's a loser."

The small size of Manitoba's political class does not mean it operates any more politely than elsewhere. *Aworhly* and Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon grew up blacked and a few years apart in Winnipeg's North End. They now war with each other. "They're both too cheap to get along," says a Winnipeg Liberal who knows both men. And *Aworhly*'s rivalry with Sharon Carstairs, who led the provincial Liberal party through the late 1980s, a legendary for an usually petty politician. While *Aworhly* argued over whether to enter the 1990 federal leadership race (finally stepping out when it became apparent that he could not raise enough money to run a national campaign), Carstairs was already using her influence to back her old friend Chretien. In turn, *Aworhly* refused to help Carstairs in her 1990 provincial election, when power seemed within her grasp. The night she lost, a painful defeat after such high expectations, he was at a nightclub in Winnipeg where he jumped on stage to sing *Blue Suede Shoes*. Really.

Aworhly argues that his tough, pragmatic side shows he is not ideological enough to flip up to his casting as the living representative of old-fashioned Liberalism. "It's the media that says, 'You're an American.' No I just would like Canada to have its own policy," he says forcefully. "People forget, but I started the privatization of transportation in this country in 1984. And back then, I was the guy saying that our older social programs were falling us, and I got shot down in the Trudeau cabinet for that. So do I resent the stereotype of my politics? Yes I do."

John Turner once privately predicted no prime minister would ever put *Aworhly* in foreign affairs because the newspaper clippings file was too thick with quotes from *Aworhly* bashing Washington. And while it is generally agreed that he gets along well with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, there are still people in Washington who would ever put *Aworhly* as a lead airline trade negotiator, or the *Aworhly* who crafted the Liberal's Gulf War policy in opposition in 1991, convincing Canadians to the anti Saddam Hussein coalition—unless they were actually who at. "I'm sure the Americans have all that in their briefing notes somewhere," he says wryly. But *Aworhly* defends his record, blaming his politics to those of American liberals. "I don't say harsh things about the States. I just think things about certain American policies and the politicians who produced them. Sure I didn't like what the Cold Warman were doing in the 1980s. Neither did all of Americans. But people forget that I've also had caustic criticism for the States for things like setting up the United Nations." He has no phobias about American culture. He likes jazz. And, he says with a smile, "I love Broadway musicals."

Aworhly says he is trying, with Albright, to redesign and read more cross-border institutions to avoid trans-boundary crises like last summer's Red River floods. But relations with

Washington so dwarf all other Canadian concerns that Chretien himself retains ultimate control over the bilateral relationship, relying heavily on advice from his nephew Raymond Chretien, who is Canada's ambassador in Washington.

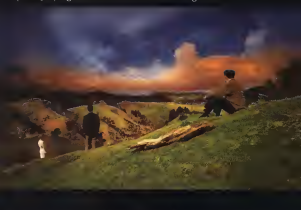
Aworhly's relations with the Prime Minister's Office are hardly cozy. He deals with Jim Bartleman, a career diplomat who is the Prime Minister's personal advisor on foreign affairs. Bartleman claims Chretien's caution—which frustrates *Aworhly*'s desire to be an action hero. Bartleman's daily access to Chretien is understandable in a city where proximity counts, and "the PM is very comfortable with Bartleman," says a senior adviser. "Chretien likes a pragmatic approach. He likes Tom

Chrystie. And that's not Lloyd *Aworhly*." Perhaps, but the PMO's only hostility to the lead news campaign sided with its success. Chrystie sides now pointedly note that Andre Ouellet, *Aworhly*'s predecessor, was responsible for convincing the Canadian military to give up its own landmine program. When the time came to blow up that last

Canadian stockpile, it was Chretien who was photographed with his finger on the button.

Aworhly, meanwhile, presses on with his attempt to redefine Canadian foreign policy, updating the Pearsonian vision. "We see the way politics is changing internationally," he says. "New players—environmentalists, NGOs—are becoming not just advocates but powerful players in their own right, using the power of new communications to really get things done." *Aworhly* calls it the Global Commons, touchingly "people power" language that can still excite users from the lobby diplomatic elites who insist they still shape the world. In Ottawa, the elites are already whispering that *Aworhly* is overestimating Canada's weight in the world. It will all come crashing down on this crazy small arms control plan he is floating, they say. Not very enough. You might reduce the number of small arms, but you will never get rid of them. "We'll see," says *Aworhly* with a light smile, still dreaming in a cynical age where the realists are writing him off again already. □

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Seven premiers and senior bureaucrats from Alberta, Quebec and Newfoundland met with native leaders in Winnipeg to discuss the Calgary declaration on national unity. The premiers agreed that a companion document describing natives as a distinct society with a separate order of government will be part of public consultations on the declaration.

RUSH-HOUR CRASH

A commuter train accident in Toronto's Union Station left more than 100 passengers injured. The collision, at the height of evening rush hour, happened when a slow-moving, empty train crashed into another waiting to depart with 500 people onboard. At week's end, investigators had concluded that the brakes on the moving train were not faulty, and were investigating the possibility of human error.

TAKING NO CHANCES

The federal health department said last week it would require prescriptions for the anti-HIV medicines Zalcitabine and Zidovudine to be given only to people with a confirmed HIV infection. The change was made because the anti-HIV medicines cause rare but potentially fatal side-effects when taken with one of several other common drugs.

REFUGEE CLAIM FAILS

Immigration officials in Halifax rejected a bid by two Filipinos asking to stay in Canada, saying there is no proof they face persecution. The convenor from the container ship Marnik Dubai said they and their families back home have been in danger ever since the men accused they Taiwanese officers of killing their shipwrecked last year.

A TAXING BILL

The Ontario government came under heavy fire as it tried to pass Bill 160, its controversial reorganization of education. The latest outcry erupted when Education Minister Dave Johnson acknowledged that Bill 160 will give cabinet the power to raise \$6.1 billion through property-tax levies without debate in the legislature.

POACE CORRUPTION?

Barrie Reine, former superintendent of the Halifax port police, said he was forced from his job because he tried to investigate corruption within the Canada Ports Corp. The RCMP is investigating.



Kremer, a four-year marathon and an ongoing legal challenge

Getting to the bottom of the blood tragedy

Last week, nearly four years after his first hearing in early 1994, Justice Florence Krieger of the Ontario Court of Appeal 5-4ly gave the federal government the three-volume report of his inquiry into Canada's tainted blood scandal. An chairman of the commission, he provided over a massification of hearings into the blood tragedy, in which 1,400 Canadians were infected with AIDS and

federal government to the Red Cross and the provinces. Even before the report was made public, organizations representing victims of the blood tragedy urged Ottawa to act quickly on whatever Krieger recommended. Meanwhile, the Red Cross, which is still in charge of overseeing blood donations before the advent of a new Canadian blood agency by next September, urged donors to keep giving

*PROLOGUE

A vote for Quebec schools

In a rare free vote, MPs voted 204 to 159 in favor of a constitutional amendment that allows Quebec to organize schools into English and French boards rather

than Protestant and Roman Catholic ones. Interventions by Ontario's Minister of Education, John Snider, and the role of the Quebec Education Minister, Philippe Mauray, were also discussed.

A day later, Sen. again was on the constitutional trail, this time challenging the Quebec government's attempt to amend the constitution to allow it to act as a separate state. Sen. said that the power to amend the constitution is a political issue, not a legal one. Sen. said that he was not sure if he should vote on the amendment, as it was not a constitutional issue.

The Mulroney factor

The Airbus affair continued to simmer as Reform party Leader Preston Manning came to the defense of Brian Mulroney in the House of Commons. Saying he was not a fan of the former prime minister, Manning declared that Mulroney still has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. The Reform leader's challenge came in response to a new initiative by Mulroney to clear his name with a Nov. 14 letter to RCMP commissioner Philip Murray, Justice Minister Jeanne McLellan and Solicitor General Jeffrey Scott. He demands that Ottawa firmly withdraw a

1985 justice department letter to Swiss authorities alleging Mulroney received illegal kickbacks in the 1988 \$1.8-billion sale of 34 Airbus jets to Air Canada. "If we don't get that withdrawn," Mulroney said, "we will take appropriate action to the next stage."

Mulroney has already taken action, in the form of a \$50-million lawsuit that Ottawa was forced to settle out of court in January 1991 as for his latest demand. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said last week that his government's actions are tied "up to [the RCMP] to decide who they are investigating." Chrétien told the House of Commons, meanwhile, and Ottawa may have a final response this week.



World

Baby boom in Iowa

Septuplets reignite the debate about fertility drugs

BY SHARON DOYLE DRIEDGLER

The thousands showed seven babies. Septuplets, the doctor told the mother, and the odds against their survival were astronomical. She could, of course, choose to abort now or all of the seven fetuses. But Bobba McCaughey, 25, an Alberta-born seamstress living in Carle, Iowa, decided to let a higher power take charge of the husband's pregnancy that had begun with fertility drugs. The devout Baptist simply prayed and, with the support of her husband, Nancy 27, and a protective circle of family and friends who kept her astonishing secret, spent nearly six months confined to bed, waiting and watching her waistline stretch to 52 inches. "God gave us these kids," McCaughey said last month when word of her multiple pregnancy began leaking out. "He wants us to raise them."

Last week, McCaughey presented McCay's defied the odds, delivering seven babies by cesarean section, two months before her due date. The four boys and three girls—Kenneth, Alaska, Natalie, Kelsey, Brandon, Nathaniel and Joel, born between 12:45 and 12:54 p.m. on Wednesday at the Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines—went straight into medical history books. Weighing just two pounds, five ounces to three pounds, four ounces each, they are the only living septuplets in the world. Said Dr. Paula Mahone, who helped deliver them, "It strikes me as a miracle."

Among the first to send congratulations were the three surviving



Discouraged septuplets—near identical as Canada's miracle baby. Three births, near North Bay, Ont., in 1934, also yielded the world's smallest. During their early childhood, thousands of hours lined up each day and paid money to watch the girls—the first quadruplets known to live beyond infancy—as they bled a glass panel in a privately run facility known as Quindlan. But since the 1960s, when doctors began to treat barren women with fertility drugs, multiple births have become much more commonplace—to the point that several sets of quadruplets now lead anonymous, unremarkable lives.

Septuplets, however, are another matter. Just the notion of seven

babies born together still has the power to astonish and to evoke enormous curiosity, delight and consternation. Friends and neighbors in Carle, a bedroom community 25 km outside Des Moines, are rallying around the McCaugheys, showering them with gifts and good wishes. But many specialists in the medical community are appalled that a fertility treatment had such an extreme outcome. "We are really happy that all those babies made it," says Dr. Cliff Loberch, a fertility specialist at Women's College Hospital in Toronto. "But this is something you really want to avoid—it is so dangerous for the babies and the moms."

But such thoughts were far from Bobba McCaughey's mind Friday as she lay in bed, her newborns for the first time. The six were still so weak, she said, and she and her husband are allowed to touch them from time to time with gloved hands. But after two days, doctors allowed her to pick up the biggest of the septuplets, Kenneth, for a brief cuddle. "It was so unexpected," the exhausted, tearful mother told a news conference later. "We didn't think he would come out of the ventilator machine. I can't wait to hold it now all." Kenneth's an obvious candidate to "leave" because it "seems above the bloodstream" (critical) level—but they were all doing reasonably well given their prematurity.

The precedents, however, are not encouraging. Only one other set of septuplets has ever been born alive, in Santo Amato in September, and six have since died. A California couple produced North America's last septuplet birth in May, 1980. One was stillborn, three died after 29 days and five survivors have medical and developmental problems. In January one septuplet born to a couple in Mexico was stillborn—the others soon died. And last year in England, a woman expecting eight has been signed a lucrative contract to tell her story to a tabloid, but lost the fetus to miscarriage.

Still, doctors at the Iowa hospital remained optimistic about the McCaughey brood. Because the mother was able to carry them for nearly 31 weeks—usually long for so many infants—the babies reached a viable weight and stage of development, with well-formed brains and livers. "The infants' size is 'wonderful' and 'vertically unheard of in a multiple pregnancy,'" reported one doctor. But the danger, say some experts, is that some disabilities may not become apparent for years. Blindness, chronic lung problems and learning disabilities are common among premature babies. "I don't wish them any harm," says Dr. Arthur Leader, chief of reproductive medicine at the University of Ottawa. "But the literature suggests that children in multiple birth will all have some form of handicap."

Many fertility specialists believe that doctors could—and perhaps should—lose interest in preventing McCaughey's privately dangerous multiple pregnancy. "I am delighted that people are happy," says Leader. "But obviously the lady was overstimulated by drugs." Many women are unable to conceive because their ovaries fail to ovulate—first as product as egg. Specialists may prescribe fertility drugs—as they did for McCaughey—to stimulate the ovaries to produce an egg during the ovulatory cycle. Once an egg is ripe, a second drug is injected to prepare it for fertilization—either naturally, as with the McCaugheys, or by artificial means.

But the drugs sometimes cause the production of several eggs which, if fertilized, become a multiple pregnancy. In many cases, doctors intervene to prevent fertilization when measuring deficiencies more than one egg. "The solution is to withhold the ovulation drugs once the woman isn't to have intercourse during that cycle," explains Leader. Doctors have also reduced the drugs to a lower dose. Another way to handle an overabundance of eggs is when fertilization, an invasive procedure that involves removing the eggs from the woman's body, fertilizing them in a test tube, then reimplanting one or two. But to ensure a successful outcome—and to avoid the possibility of having to repeat the expensive process—many doctors insert as many as three or four fertilized eggs, especially in women who will be a candidate of consequences for the family and society.

The technology is not perfect and even with constant moni-



The McCaugheys after the birth: the new mom, happy hospital staff (top). We're just driving in Dad

The 10 to 15 new pressures for control on reproductive technologies that are pushing the limits of the human body. "We are not built to have such a high order of pregnancy," says Dr. Patricia Board, who headed Canada's 1994 Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies. "That report—never sent up by the government—recommended control on fertility treatments to limit the number of fetuses to three. Board, and others, argue that society cannot afford to pay for the consequences of multiple pregnancies. Many of the babies, if they survive, are permanently damaged, physically or mentally, suffering chronic disabilities and medical problems, as well as difficulties at school. People look at the little babies," says Board, "and forget that there will be a cascade of consequences for the family and society."

WORLD

Waiting, some women end up with more than one developing fetus. Dozens of women who turn to the 35 or 30 fertility clinics across Canada find themselves in that position. Early this year, eight weeks into her first pregnancy, an ultrasound revealed that Diane Walls, a Waterloo, Ont., customer service representative, was carrying four fetuses. "It was overwhelming," she recalls. "I called my husband at work and he went silent, he didn't know what to say." A specialist counselled the Walls on the potential risks to mother and babies. The doctor gave her the options of "blow-by induction" or "fluid reduction." That entails the injection of a mild solution of potassium chloride into the heart of one or more of the fetuses, to improve the chances of the survival. But the Walls rejected the procedure because of the risk—estimated at five per cent—of aborting all the fetuses. "Thank goodness, it turned out all right," says Walls, who delivered four healthy babies by Caesarian on Aug. 25. Although she has several volunteers to help with two busy babies and diaper changes a day, Walls says, "I can't imagine three more."

Critics argue that, in fact, the Walls ask, to a much greater extent, the McCaugheys, took an enormous gamble that could have resulted in the loss of all of the babies. Doctors understand the emotional dilemma of women facing a multiple birth. "They are torn," says Dr. Alfred Yates, head of the Greater Fertility Clinic in Vancouver. "They had trouble getting pregnant, they want to be pregnant and suddenly they have to consider selective reduction, and God forbid if something goes wrong with the remaining fetuses." But many physicians will not give fertility drugs to women who do not agree to eliminate fetuses in the event of multiple pregnancy. And most make a clear distinction between selective reduction and abortion. "I don't consider it (reduction) as abortion per se," says Librach. "I look at it as a preservation of a pregnancy that would likely at survive."

As for the McCaugheys, their focus is firmly on seven new babies who may be ready to leave the hospital in January. How will they cope? "We're just trusting in God," says KERRY, a billing clerk at an automobile dealership in Carleton Place. When days of the births, the family received a 12-ton van and provisions of three diapers, groceries and a larger home to replace their modest, two-bedroom bungalow. Two banks were accepting donations for the family. McCaughey said his biggest concern was to make sure his family did not turn into "a big show." The surviving Daughters, Jennifer, Cecile and Yvonne, now 63, understood that worry. In poor health and near poverty, they share a home near Montreal. With their best wishes they sent the McCaugheys a book about their own unhappy lives and some advice: "Do not let anyone make their babies a tourist attraction."

Uncle Henry and aunt Blume Hepworth: He called right to her room at the hospital.



The young Daughters quote: do not show the babies to become a tourist attraction

FRIENDS IN ALBERTA

In Three Hills, Alta., they remember Bobbi Hepworth fondly as a vivacious and energetic young bible college student, always in the middle of things. "Not to much a leader, but someone who was very involved with her fellow classmates," recalls Glenn Flewelling, head of the missions department at the Prairie Bible College, where she studied from 1966 to 1968. "If someone can handle it, then Bobbi's the one because she knows her God and that's very vital."

"This," of course, is the birth last week of septuplets to Bobbi (now McCaughey) and her husband, Kerry, in Des Moines, Iowa. For Bobbi, the choice of the college in Three Hills, a community of 3,300 about 100 km northwest of Calgary, came naturally—she was born there in 1968. Her American parents, Bob and Peggy Hepworth, met and married while studying at the same school. Two months after Bobbi's birth, the Hepworths moved to Michigan.

But Bobbi returned as an 18-year-old student. And she still has relatives in the area—her father's brother, Henry Hepworth, and his wife, Doris, live 60 km northwest of Three Hills, in Innisfail, Alta. "My husband talked to her on the phone the night the babies were born," says her aunt. "We called right to her room at the hospital. She said she was overwhelmed by what happened, was very tired and glad it was over with. And she had no fear for her babies, because they were all doing so well."

Diane Hepworth says her niece takes things in her stride. "I can't think of a better kind of person to handle what's happened," she says. Michelle Orzech, 29, a music teacher at the bible college, has much the same impression of the woman she knew as a fellow member of a singing ensemble at the college. "Bobbi was very unflappable, a sort of deal-with-what-happens kind of person," says Orzech. "When you think of her situation she has the character that makes her better suited than most of us to deal with it."

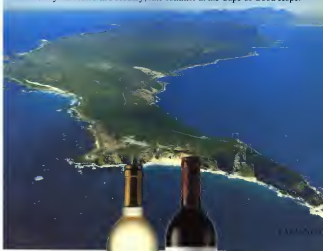
According to Flewelling, the new parents can rely on family and friends to step in if public pressures become unbearable. "If people become intrusive, a wall of people will come around to guard them," he says. "All there are abuses to this family, voices will be raised."

DALE EIDER in Calgary

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APEC's two solitudes

They, leaders watch waters of Canada Place, heavily security

BY CHRIS WOOD

There were two solitudes taking place in Vancouver last week. At one of them, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was getting ready to welcome the leaders responsible for half the world's economic might to a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in glitzying Canada Place, under the eyes of 3,000 journalists and an equal number of police. While the cordoning East Asian turmoil threatened in some Asian countries—possibly South Korea and Japan—that summit kept its focus on a free-trade agenda, with Chrétien at week's end reportedly reaffirming his confidence in Asia's economic outlook.

The other summit started at midnight with a native elder intoning a Maori prayer at the Plaza of Nations, a complex of angular white tubing and glass left over from Expo 86, the Vancouver world's fair. Only a handful of reporters and not a single police officer were in sight as 700 diverse social activists from as far away as Nepal and New way (or there being an APEC summit) gathered for the People's Summit on APEC. They are united on one thing: its plausible opposition to APEC and its goal of free trade throughout the Pacific by 2020. "Free trade does not promise us anything," Malaysian women's rights activist Irene Fernandez angrily told 100 delegates. "For those of us in the south, it is a nothing, it is a destruction."

In Vancouver headed for the full onslaught of international VIPs and their entourage to arrive on the weekend, the counter-summit was only one of dozens of satellite events surrounding the political

convergence of the annual APEC gathering. That was to take place on Monday and Tuesday of this week, when Chrétien would host U.S. President Bill Clinton, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and the leaders of 14 other Asia-Pacific economies for a series of closed-door talks and briefings. The leaders were expected to sign off on a round of tariff reductions and other trade-construction measures negotiated over the past year. Technical sessions, including the Asian financial turmoil, interwoven forest fires in Indonesia and human rights issues were left to be raised when Chrétien met individually with APEC leaders at a retreat on the grounds of the University of British Columbia.

For most Vancouverites, meanwhile, the serious subjects being debated at their summit were secondary to matters relating to security meant to protect the largest number of potential targets of terrorism ever assembled in one Canadian city. Cordonned by weeks of police warnings about downtown parking restrictions and street closures, drivers shunned the city centre. Concerts, barbecues, three-on-two bays were much lessening and scores of police-geeked Royal Canadian Mounted Police donned anyone venturing close to APEC's water-tight convention centre. But outside the security area, busy downtown streets were uncharacteristically quiet.

That added poorly for some businesses that had looked forward to a boom from the 8,000 visiting APEC delegates and observers. Along fashionable Robson Street, some stores were unusually empty for the month before Christmas. The street restrictions and a police ban on parking in major hotels cut deeply into cab fare. Ted McLean's downtown bars: "It's a real disappointment," the 25-year

driver complained. "It could have taken my holidays away."

But while some Vancouverites needed APEC, others threw themselves into events that ranged from warmly supportive to bitterly opposed. At a display of B.C. made technology, Premier Glen Clark mounted an arcade simulator and shunned down a virtual ski slope to demonstrate the province's capabilities in computer animation. Earlier in the same room, 200 business economists from 25 countries listened to senior Clinton adviser Jeffrey Frankel declare confidence in the APEC region's future: "Notwithstanding recent turbulence in the financial markets." Frankel told them, "the east Asian economic crisis is the most dynamic in the world." The province's networking was to continue this week with, among other events, a two-day conference at which New Zealand, Maori, Australian Aborigines and Canadian natives would swap views on business opportunities for indigenous peoples in APEC.

But for many of those attending the People's Summit, the issue was less how to profit from APEC than how to stop it. Supported by a \$800,000 federal grant, the counter-summit's workshops and seminars offered up comprehensive critique of APEC's agenda as well as its objectives and goals. One session featured representatives of peasant groups from 14 Asian nations who complained that free trade in food threatens the livelihoods of tens of millions of small-scale farmers in less developed countries. At another, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos Horta told a theatre full of high-school students that "human rights are not abstract notions," as he condemned Indonesia's bloody suppression and continuing repression of East Timor. He wrote others, signed up in 17-year-old Anne Houston, one of the Grade 12 students from Vancouver P.U. Meadows who slipped clothes to hear Ramos Horta speak. "It's good that they're putting this on, to show both sides," said Houston, "because they're not going to discuss human rights at APEC."

They were discussing little else in "Democracy"—the very loosely named democracy, pro-democracy tent village pitched near the UBC student union building to promote the university's role in the student program. Among the leaders expected to lunch with Chrétien at the president's residence on campus were Indonesian President Suharto and China's Jiang. Both have criticized or supported last week's crackdown on dissent in the past. The plan to welcome them to UBC angered fourth-year speech students student Krishna Harris, one of those carrying out to protest "People who kill students are coming to this university," the said. "And I don't think they belong here."

Such sentiments failed to make much headway among the working delegations of APEC bureaucrats and ministers, where the focus was all on trade. Canadian negotiators spent the final hours before the leaders' session in a last ditch effort to win a statement for the lowest and felt producer. They faced stiff opposition from Japan, which could not get any agreement by other members. But Canada's top APEC official insisted that other key Ottawa

objectives—notably new rules to standardize customs forms and clearly proportionate procedural policies—remained on track. Said Leonard Edwards: "The product line is pretty much in order."

Missing from the lineup, though, was a proposal widely floated during the week of the turbulence on Asian financial markets last month. As one Asian economy after another tumbled in value, several analysts called for a regional monetary fund backed by Japan to bail out troubled economies before they are forced into the arms of the International Monetary Fund, whose aid is usually directed toward gradual programs of government austerity. But an emergency meeting of APEC finance officials last week in Manila scotched that idea, which critics warned could undermine the IMF's authority. According to senior Canadian officials who attended the Manila meeting, APEC leaders will be asked instead to approve an emergency lending facility that would supplement IMF rescue loans in any future crisis, but remain subject to whatever conditions the fund may set. The cure, however, and one official, was intended to ease the Washington-based IMF's remains. "The IMF is the first and largest \$11.1 billion" for economies in trouble. Last week, South Korea, the world's eleventh-largest economy, took advantage of that provision, following Thailand and Indonesia in seeking an IMF bailout. President Kim Young-sam postponed the APEC summit by a day in pay attention to his country's shaken finances.

Inside and outside the security cordon, there were steadily appearing signs of APEC's agenda. To free trade critics, Minnie Sefton, chairwoman of the Ottawa-based Council of Canadians and a speaker at the counter-summit, APEC "has relegated huge sections of our population to joblessness and poverty and we reject it outright." Edwards fired back, arguing that economic development will lead to the emergence of democracy in the near future. Edwards added, "we're showing an example. Even bringing these leaders to Vancouver as they can see the People's Summit in action is a lot of a message."

How much of that message would get through to the despondent sitting among the democrats around the APEC table was far from clear. Chrétien dispatched two senior ministers—Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Austin and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi—to the People's Summit as they worked to ease his concerns and report back to him. But it would take up to a week before he would have to decide how much, if any, of that report he would pass on to his fellow leaders. □

While leaders talk trade, protesters focus on human rights



Spotlighting Indonesia and Tibet: It is pain, it is suffering



WORLD SOUTH AFRICA

The painful truth

A controversial commission probes an ugly past

Sixteen years ago, a white South African building contractor named Fritz Jansen was driving home on a Cape Town highway when he was stopped by a black mob. Seizing a white victim for their protest against apartheid, they dragged Jansen from his car, doused him with gasoline, set him alight and beat him with stones. He died the next day.

Fifteen years ago, a black South African student leader named Siphiwe Mkhabela was doused with rat poison by white apartheid police while in detention in Port Elizabeth. That didn't kill him, so after a few months the same policemen picked up Mkhabela again, dragged him with dripping pits, shot him in the head, burned his body while they barbecued sausages, rolled up the ashes, broke hashbrowns and dangled it all in the nearby Fish River.

Two men, two roles, two heinous cruel murders committed long ago on opposite sides of the apartheid divide. Now two families, still grieving, have to face the possibility that South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission may grant amnesty to the murderers of Fritz Jansen and Siphiwe Mkhabela. Since April, 1996, the truth-commissioners job has been to listen to victims' stories, offer

aid by surviving relatives, and to offer amnesty in exchange for the truth from the perpetrators of political crimes during the era of white-only rule. The commission's lack of credibility in its inflammatory chairman and father-confessor, retired archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end apartheid. But now he's entering the final phase of its mandate, recently expanded until next July to handle the flood of amnesty applications. It has become as controversial as the crimes it investigates. Many blacks believe the commission is biased in favor of whites, and many whites that it leans towards blacks.

The scheduled hearings were supposed to be open-air public sessions promoting national reconciliation and healing. Many victims and their families, however, soon plain litter that the amnesty hearings have become legalistic traps-of-war in which the perpetrators of political crimes lie or hide the truth, admitting only what is already known and offering conciliatory apologies. This week, President Nelson Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie, may mount a new attack on the commission as she faces hard questions about murders in which she has long denied involvement.

Fikile Jansen provides at a hearing. Heiristic testimony and suggestions of racial bias

"These people are still lying," said Mkhabela Mkhabela as he listened to testimony from the four policemen who killed his brother. They are the same officers linked to other notorious murders, including that of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko in 1977. In the Biko hearings, police stuck by their 20-year-old story that Biko died from a head injury sustained in a fall during a fight he provoked with officers.

Unlike the Biko case, however, there was no witness to the murder of Siphiwe Mkhabela. The officers' black henchman, Joe Mankela, who calls himself "a political semi-killer," has told the commission that Siphiwe was not "humanely drugged and shot," as police state in their amnesty applications, but was tortured to death. "In 15 years since my brother's death, the police haven't revealed anything," said Mkhabela. "We feel sometimes the TRC is so biased." His mother, Joyce, whose white hair stands on end as though reflecting the shock she still feels over Siphiwe's suffering and death, stared while watching the police men testify. She brought to the hearing a patch of her son's hair that had fallen out after he was poisoned; some sooty was attached.

The Jansen family has not yet had its day before the commission to challenge the amnesty application of Afrika Biko, one of the mob that killed Fritz. But they have gone public with their sentiments. "The savages that inflicted so much pain now want forgiveness," wrote Jansen's nephew, P. F. Ross, in The Cape Times. "In my opinion, the



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WORLD

Truth and Reconciliation Commission is coming to a halt rather than going by ascribing the souls of wounds that have taken so many years to heal."

Yet some families have already forgiven those who hurt their loved ones. Leading the way were the parents of California Army Recruit, who was chased, tripped, stabbed and wound to death by a black mob in a Cape Town street. She was there as part of a voter education program prior to the 1994 elections. In July this year, her parents shook hands with the parents of the men who murdered her, who now want amnesty. "I don't have anything to forgive because I've never really felt hatred," said Amy's mother, Linda Bohl. "They talked so much about the disenfranchised young lions of this country. It's such a complicated society. Who's really to blame?"

Not everyone is so forgiving. Many blacks attending the hearings say their faith has been shaken by the commission's decision to grant amnesty to Dirk Coetzee, a hit-squad leader working in the murky depths of the apartheid security services. Coetzee has admitted killing black human rights lawyer Griffiths Mxenge, who was stabbed more than 40 times in 1981. Awful as his crime was, Coetzee met all the legal criteria for amnesty. An applicant must convince the commission that he has revealed all he knows about the crime, that the crime was motivated by politics rather than personal

gain or enmity, and that the crime was commensurate with the political aim. The perpetrator must also accept any wrongdoing while ordered the crime, but need not apologize for his actions.

Thanks to the commission, Dirk Coetzee is a free man, despite his court conviction for Mxenge's murder. Moreover, having a clean white record, he was able to resume his job with the National Intelligence Agency. "Anyone who thought the TRC would not be controversial was being too hopeful," Tutu told *Mediacore* in an interview. The Coetzee case is an example of what Tutu calls the "evil compromise" struck in 1993 when the apartheid government was negotiating to

hand over power to Nelson Mandela. Mandela would not accede to white demands for blanket amnesty for apartheid crimes. The Janata National Party government refused to give up power without some assurance there would be no Nuremberg-style trials for those who would soon find themselves on the wrong side of history. The amnesty-for-truth exchange was the deal that broke the logjam.

So far, amnesty has been granted in very few cases: only 86 of 7,043 applications have been approved, while 2,091 have been refused, the rest are pending. But given that rejection to the Coetzee decision, Tutu admits he is concerned how the public will react if amnesty is granted to the killers of Chris Hani. The charismatic Communist leader was gunned down in his driveway by a white right-wing extremist in 1993. The assassination brought the country to the brink of civil war. Blacks are vehemently opposed to an amnesty, but the assassin and his accomplice may well meet all the commission's criteria.

The perception that the commission tends to let perpetrators off the hook worries Tutu. "A very good case can be made that this commission, required by law to be victim-friendly, appears to be perpetrator-friendly," Tutu says. Armoured criticisms go free, he notes, while victims get nothing more than the chance to tell their stories to a sympathetic forum. The commission has proposed a victims' reparation fund of

feel the commission is loaded in favor of people who, if they are not members of the ANC, would naturally sympathize with the ANC. So maybe it was a wise move not to have someone from the National Party and from the IFP.

Maclean's: South African Blacks are still poor, whites are still rich. How can your commission achieve reconciliation with the past when the inequalities endure?

Tutu: Whites won't be free until blacks are free. Freedom is indivisible. So I am dismayed by this continuing sense of entitlement on the part of the white community. Because it really is amazing. Blacks could easily have been browbeaten off. They have a new democratic government that was supposed to deliver a million jobs. Yet they still get up from their slumbers each morning. They go to work for whites in affluent suburbs and, at night, they return to the squalor of their homes, their unit streets, with no running water, no clinics, no schools. And yet they don't rampage through the largely white pockets of comfort and affluence. And all some whites do is complain that the deal, when really it's about their loss of power.



Tutu in his commission office. The very helpful

Tutu. It is no mirroring that those who are the most vicious opponents of the commission tend to be those who benefited most from apartheid.

Maclean's: There are suggestions that truth commissions be established to deal with atrocities committed in such places as Rwanda and Bosnia. What recommendations would you make?

Tutu: In China, the military allowed a truth commission only by saying, we're going to have a blanket amnesty. Here it's amnesty only on the basis of individual application. In other truth commissions, the proceedings have been held in secret. Here, with few exceptions, it's transparent and out in the open. A truth commission should be of short duration. And, this commission that should be carefully chosen. Here, some

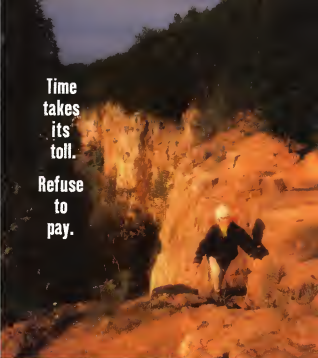
Finding 'nobility of the spirit'

Despite having undergone radiation therapy for prostate cancer last summer, former archbishop Desmond Tutu looked fit and relaxed as he answered questions from *Maclean's* correspondent Kate Dunn in Cape Town on his work as chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Excerpt:

Maclean's: How has the truth commission experience affected your faith in mankind?

Tutu: It has been almost breathtaking, this willingness to forgive, this magnanimity, this nobility of the spirit. The stories that have been told in criminal court cases and hearings have left people livid. But they have not gone out in an orgy of revenge. I'm very hopeful.

Maclean's: You have been heavy criticism from the white-rural National Party and the Zulu-led Inkatha Freedom Party, which claim the commission is biased against anyone who isn't with the ruling African National Congress. What do you say?



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WORLD

about \$800 million, but it is unlikely the 8-state country can afford such a plan.

And in the interim, the commission has failed to elicit credible testimony from the presidents, cabinet ministers and generals who sat at the apex of the apartheid system. F.W. de Klerk, the country's last white president and the man who freed Nelson Mandela from jail, has apologized for apartheid, but he is mentioned in the commission in May that there was any or any state-sanctioned culpability shared at serious violations of human rights such as murder or assassination. He insisted that racist elements in the security forces, rather than the cabinet, should be held responsible for these crimes.

Some of the most terrible revelations have come out of the infamous Vilakhas farm north of Pretoria, headquarters in the 1980s for soldiers of the government's dirty war against the liberation movement. Their sadistic treatment of detainees became ritualized and spread to similar centres across the country. As in the death of Sipho Mzimela, Vilakhas agents usually held a detainee, the typical South African baritone, at the same time in one of their victims' prisons. "During two sets of most," concentrated Tutu. Of all the testimony he has heard, he says, the barbaric-crime story "in the depths of depravity" life was especially moved by the sight of Mrs. Mzimela at the hearing, asking the path of her son's last.

De Klerk denied knowing what was really going on at Vilakhas. But commission investigators have found cabinet documents directing state security agents to "viewpoints," "assessments" and "rub out" the government's enemies. According to former foreign minister P.W. Botha and ex-law-and-order minister Adriaan Vlok, those words meant "detain," not "kill." Tutu is dismissive of that semantic debate. "We know that about everyone on the list who had these wonderful words used about them—'viewpoints,' 'assessments,' 'remove permanently from society'—were, in fact, killed," he says. "The language meant what most people think it meant." The commission has yet to hear from the man known as "The Great Crocodile," F.W. Botha, de Klerk's predecessor as president. He is expected to testify late this month under subpoena.

Meanwhile, the battleships of apartheid are aghast at being cast aside by their former leaders. Ex-Vilakhas leader Eugene de Kock says he has been "sacrificed" while the real guilty people have walked away from

the gruesome past. He is serving two life terms for six murders and dozens of other crimes. Former apartheid "veteran" Chris Whelan said apartheid leaders built de Klerk into their language in order to avoid "having blood on their hands." Both men have said their superiors, all the way up to the cabinet, "must have known" about their activities. But there are very few inculcating gains linking politicians and generals with specific crimes. There is, however, ample evidence that they sanctioned such acts.



Opposing amnesty: a government order to "rub out" enemies

particularly by adopting budgets to secret operations.

One was the government's scheme to fund and train black hit squads operated by the Inkatha Freedom Party in KwaZulu Natal province. Commission documents show the intent to use the squads to attack the African National Congress—ferocious black-on-black violence that continues to day. The revelations have severely damaged the political career of Inkatha's Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthe.

Buthe denies the commission the support of his ANC enemies. In fact, all political parties, including the ANC, have criticized the commission as their opponents' tool. Tutu says justice is in perhaps a sign that the commission is getting some traction: It has clearly shown that no one is clean in a dirty war.

In July, Liza Mamba testified that she was raped and mutilated by her fellow soldiers in the ANC army. Even more shocking was the angry plea from Jo. Seremane, chairman of South Africa's land claims court. He asked the commission to investigate the alleged torture and execution of his brother Timothy, who disappeared while in an ANC detention camp in Angola sometime in the 1980s. "I am insisting that a thorough inquiry be made and the people responsible brought to face questions," said Seremane in late July. Members of the state's security forces have come forward, he said, "but we hear nothing from the ANC. Why do you cheat me of my brother's bones?"

Another lingering embarrassment to the ANC is Mandela's former wife, now known as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. In September, she was forced by subpoena to appear in court to answer allegations that she was involved in the kidnapping, torture and murder of Soweto teenagers, including 14-year-old Stompie Sepe, and the killing of a township doctor. The infamous Winnie chase that time to announce her candidacy for the deputy presidency of the ANC in December, a position she had spent countless months, given her popularity with South Africa's poor. Analysts said how she lived at the commission's hearings this week, held in public at her request, would be crucial to her political future.

Apartheid and the liberation struggle were officially over in South Africa, but in reality both are very much alive. The commission has turned up evidence of a dirty-tricks campaign to discredit one of its members, Thando Ntshane, possibly because commission revelations have dismantled the police service. The government has appointed Justice Richard Goldstone, the United Nations' former war crimes prosecutor, to investigate the matter in evidence of subversive activities on the part of the police.

Even worse for South Africans are reports that police continue to routinely torture, even murder their prisoners. Between April and September, 200 people died while in police custody or as a result of police action. There were 40 complaints of torture in one province alone. "There is still a long road ahead of us," said Tutu, before taking a break for his ordinary meditation. "But the truth must out. That's our ultimate purpose so that we can heal, reconcile this nation, and move on." For the families of Frits Jansen and Sipho Mzimela, that will not be easy.

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WORLD EGYPT



Mubarak and aides in Luxor: a new crackdown

Terror in the temple

A tourist massacre revives fear of Islamic rebels

It was a scene from a holiday in hell. In the suburban Nile city of Luxor, pools of blood stained the ancient splendor of the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Across the 3,400-year-old sacred floor, the bodies of 38 foreign tourists lay riddled with bullets and slashed by knife blades. Six armed attackers from the Grand Islamists, or Islamic Group, had disrupted themselves as police before swarming over the tourist site yelling praises to Allah. Some survivors told of beatings, beheadings and rape. The terror lasted fully two hours, some of its latest moments caught on videotape by other tourists taking snail the Islamic masses. Ultimately, the attackers were killed after fleeing, in a shootout with the ill-prepared Egyptian security forces. Their deaths were small consolation to the families of the victims, including 35 Swiss and others from as far as Japan, Bulgaria and Colombia. Five-year-old Shoukran Turner had lived in a stone cottage in Varadero, Ecuador, with her mother and grandfather before all three were killed in the attack. Among the survivors was a sobbing German woman who described seeing her "daddy's hand roll away."

But beyond the 56 dead and 24 wounded by another casualty the nation that President Hosni Mubarak's secular regime is warring the war against radicalism who want to install a strict Islamic state smouldered on fire. When the brutal nature of the carnage renewed fears that Egypt, a leader in the Arab world and a major Western ally, might head the

way of Algeria, where the government has had little success in stopping massacres by Islamic rebels that have killed tens of thousands of villagers in the past five years. The Luxor attack was the most ferocious since the Islamic Group took up arms against the Mubarak government in 1992, after rising at home, who bring Egypt about \$4 billion a year.

As he inspected the site the next day, a glowering Mubarak could not contain his anger and embarrassment. "You are drowning around," he yelled in a rare public outburst at senior security officers whom he clearly blamed for the massacre. A few hours later, he fired his interior minister, appointed a hardliner in his place, and called a special committee to review anti-terror operations. More police were assigned to protect tourist sites and hotels across the country.

But the damage was done. Aware that the attack came just two months after the Germans were killed in a gun-bomb attack outside Cairo's Egyptian Museum, travel firms cancelled trips in dozens. (Many stopped short of advising Canadians to stay away from Egypt altogether, but urged "caution") and said they should avoid Muya, Assiut and other tourist sites in southern Egypt that are known to be hotbeds of Islamic extremism. "The massacre has hit the foreign sector in this attack was that it is capable of striking at any time and of incapacitating the government any time," said Mubarak al-Kay, an Islamic lawyer from

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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

WORLD

who represents members of the Islamic Group. "It shows that the struggle between the government and the Islamic groups has hit a dead end. The worst is yet to come."

Certainly the Islamic Group, the largest and most violent of several militant outfits, is still very much alive despite the unpopularity and even the death of its leaders. In several recent attacks, including London's demand for the release of the American hostages in Omar al-Bachra, from a British prison hospital in Missouri, The blind attack moved to the United States in 1990 and was conducted by counterterrorism the 1991 World Trade Center bombing, and a plot to assassinate New York's Mayor. Islamic extremists in the Islamic Group and other extremists stepped up their attacks, the Mubarak government cracked down with draconian measures. The Islamic Group says that 35,000 of its adherents are in Egypt, and that it has 17,000 business rights groups and the figure of 17,000. The government has also accused the moderate Muslim Brotherhood—which has denied violence—of ties to the radicals. Amnesty International and the U.S. State Department have also increased the security forces for militant activities.

Last week's attack bolstered those in Egypt who think crachdroids there cannot exist in the Islamic state. "This does not and did not work," said commentator Muhammad Saif Al-Agnaf, who writes in the state-owned newspaper *Al-Ahram*. "The crachdroids did not splinter the group, pushing them into the desert. But it never succeeded in adding to the real roots of terrorism." As in Algeria, those roots include a social and political system that has been "totally corrupted," he insists. The government's failure to create jobs in a country where the per capita income is just \$800 provides fertile ground for the Islamic Group, says Al-Agnaf. Many young Egyptians are fed up about official corruption in the country, he says, and they are angry. "They see Mubarak as having captured the West, and they have turned against Egypt's paramount peace accord with Israel." Commemoration has faded, nationalism has faded and there are young, many people say, who are not interested in the Islamic cause. "Extremism seems to be their solution."

Mubarak's solution to Islamic militancy has little to do with social issues. Security, he insists, is the way to keep tourists and Egyptians safe. He repeated that conviction last week as a gloomy quiet settled over the town of the massacre, where local billboards proclaiming "Strike, you are in Luxor" suddenly seemed like a cruel taunt. While leaflets left by assassins at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut vowed further "revenge," the president pledged to crack down even harder on terrorists. What Mubarak could not say in just how hard would be hard enough.

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World NOTES

A KREMLIN SHAKEUP

Russian President Boris Yeltsin denied his economic reform chief, Anatoly Chubais, and fellow reformist Boris Nemtsov Chubais was fired as finance minister while Nemtsov lost the energy portfolio, but both remained deputy premiers. Chubais had been caught up in a corruption scandal over a \$125,000 book advance he received. He was replaced by another liberal, but Nemtsov said the reshuffle reflected deep divisions over the future of reform. Analysts said it bolstered the more cautious Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

RWANDAN JAIL CLASH

More than 300 people were killed when 1,200 Hutu rebels raided a jail in north-west Rwanda and attempted to free prisoners awaiting trial for their part in the 1994 genocide of 500,000. The Tutsi-led army repulsed the attack, the most brutal since Hutu refugees returned from the former Zaire last year.

TAIWAN HOSTAGE DRAMA

A fugitive serial killer released a South African diplomat's wife after holding her hostage in Taipei and lured himself in, Chen Ching-hsing confessed on national television to a string of murders and kidnappings. His criminal odyssey began in April with the killing of the teenage daughter of a popular actress. Two others involved in the spree later confessed suicide during shootouts with police.

BLAIR SAYS HE IS SORRY

British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for his government's handling of a funding scandal that became the first major stain on his six-year-old Labour government. Blair said he was "hurt and upset" to be accused of questionable ethics after it was revealed that a key Labour Party donor stood to benefit from a government decision to exempt Formula One racing from a cigarette advertising ban.

DOWN ON SCIENTOLOGY

Six U.S. congressmen visiting Germany said they were embarrassed at a congressional attempt to scold Bonn for its treatment of the Church of Scientology. A week earlier, the House voted 218 to 101 against a resolution urging President Bill Clinton to express concern over Germany's crackdown on Scientology, which Bonn does not view as a legitimate religion.

FIFTY YEARS ON, A NEW ATTITUDE

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip stood with their sons and grandsons at a Westminster Abbey thanksgiving service to mark the golden anniversary of their wedding on Nov. 26, 1947. The ceremony and a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Tony Blair turned into a chance for a troubled monarchy to show it is trying to modernize. In a speech at what was billed as a People's Banquet, the Queen pledged to be more responsive to the public's wishes. She was clearly responding to criticism of the Royal Family's initial coolness to public grief over the death of her former daughter-in-law, Diana, Princess of Wales, 16 weeks earlier. Reading the public's message can be difficult, she said, "but read it, we must." Seated at a table with a jockey, a girl scout leader, a policeman and an auto assembly worker, the Queen talked of "a remarkable 50 years" that included the advent of television, the Beatles and surfing the Net. The anniversary came just as a new poll showed support for the monarchy had dropped to 32 per cent, from 65 per cent in 1983.



Saddam finally backs down

United Nations weapons inspectors returned to Iraq, defusing a crisis that had threatened to end in a new military confrontation between Washington and Baghdad. Saddam Hussein's government allowed the inspectors to resume their work after Kuwait insisted Iraq to reveal an earlier smuggling of American weapons to the UN team. Seventy-five inspectors, including four Americans, went back to Baghdad after an absence of 11 days. The head of the UN commission that oversees their work, Richard Butler, said they would first concentrate on finding stocks of nerve gas that Iraq is suspected of possessing.

At the same time, the United States continued building up its forces in the Persian Gulf. The aircraft carrier USS Washington arrived in the Gulf and six F-117 Stealth fighters landed in Kuwait. The Americans have about 30,000 troops in the region, and President Bill Clinton said the world must remain vigilant to ensure that Iraq's ability to manufacture weapons of mass destruction is eliminated. U.S. officials expressed skepticism about the deal that Moscow reached with Baghdad, but the Americans said they promised Saddam only that they would work towards the removal of UN sanctions against Iraq.

A freed Chinese activist pledges to return

Freed Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng vowed in New York City that he would return to China, but he wasn't sure when. Wei, China's leading democratic activist, was unexpectedly released from prison and put on a plane to the United States, ostensibly for medical reasons, while serving 11 years for subversion. The move followed Chinese President Jiang Zemin's generally successful U.S. visit, during which President Clinton publicly lauded Wei for human rights. Wei, treated far warmer than public, said prospects for eventual democratic reform in China were "very bright." Beijing said China's courts would decide how to deal with him if he returned.



Wallace McCain, CEO of McCain Foods, sitting at a desk and talking on a telephone.



be a world supplier of pork," he said. "There should be more production than there is."

While its rivals build new plants, the biggest challenge for Maple Leaf is to squeeze more money out of its meat-processing divisions by reducing labor costs. And despite the strike, Maple Leaf president Michael McCain, 38, told *Maclean's* the firm has no intention of backing down. "I'm not prepared to retreat in new technology," he said, "unless I know that when I'm done, I'll have competitive labor costs." He added that the company is determined to level the playing field with the Americans. "The day of the regional Canadian meatpacking plant has come to an end. We have to consolidate the industry to generate scale and plant utilization equal to the U.S."

If the industry fails to respond to these pressures, McCain says it will follow the Canadian beef-packing industry into oblivion. Over the past decade, Canadian beef processors were all edged out by larger and more efficient U.S. partners, who built massive plants in Canada and now dominate the industry. Previously, Borden, Gossett and Canada Packers were all significant players. According to McCain, some U.S. pork packers have also crossed the border into Canada and now compete directly against Maple Leaf while paying U.S.-style wages. Ironically, the employees of one such hog plant, a Cappli Inc. operation in southern Ontario, are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, the same union that has bowed Maple Leaf's meat plants. The 586 workers there earn around \$11.50 an hour, compared with the \$16.58-an-hour average at the Maple Leaf plant in Burlington.

As part of the company's attempt to reduce its operating costs, McCain has agreed to pay a six-time bonus of between \$50,000 and \$60,000 to any worker at the Burlington plant who accepts the wage cut. So far, there appears to be no takers. Many of the striking workers' families now live in the factory yards last week questioned the company's pay comparisons and raised the issue of productivity as their U.S. counterparts. They also complained bitterly about the company's demand for wage reductions at a time when it is making money—last year, Maple Leaf earned \$42 million on revenues of \$1.2 billion. "We are in a fight for our lives," said Lou Perron, who works in the city's "Meat Town" plant.

At Maple Leaf's three other hog plants, pay rates cut the primary issue. In Hamilton and North Bedford, Sask., 475 workers now earn a maximum of \$10.50 an hour but have suffered increases of 85 cents an hour over three years. The company's 650 employees in its Edmonton plant, who now earn an average of \$14.50 an hour, have been offered \$4.40 cents over the last year. "We'll have to see how the market goes," said McCain. Maple Leaf repeated its threat to close the plant if the workers remain on strike. Kirk Connolly, a senior official of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Burlington, said that Maple Leaf is trying

to reduce its pension contributions for some of the workers. "They're shuffling and bartering the contract," Connolly said.

Hoping to turn up the heat on McCain, the union will hold the Ontario Federation of Labor this week to help organize a nationwide boycott of Maple Leaf products. Connolly is also appealing to Ontario's teachers, 150,000 of whom staged a 14-day strike last month to protest the Ontario government's plan to cut education spending. The teachers in theory have significant clout: their pension plan owns 11 per cent of Maple Leaf, making it the company's largest shareholder. But McCain owns 54 per cent. Connolly plans to ask the teachers to put pressure on Maple Leaf to settle, but he says the pension plan's strategy centers at arm's length from the union and by definition favors higher corporate profits. With few allies, and an employer determined to slash costs, the workers at Maple Leaf face a long, hard winter. □

Business

The chopping block

BY TOM FENNEL

George Petrus's white nylon coat stood out in a sea of drab green parkas. Across her back was a large drawing of a butcher's knife, dripping with blood to symbolize the wage cuts she and her co-workers have vowed to resist. Last week, 2,300 employees of Toronto-based Maple Leaf Foods Inc. were on strike in five cities across the country, but the toughest battle was the one involving Petrus and 900 other workers at the firm's flagship hog-processing plant in Burlington, Ont. There resides Maple Leaf chairman Wallace McCain, one of Canada's wealthiest men, who says his company will not survive against U.S. competition unless the Burlington employees agree to wage cuts of as much as 40 per cent, to about \$9 an hour from the current average of more than \$16. The strikers, who say they would be financially ruined by the rollback, have little sympathy for their employer. "He just wants to get richer while we get poorer," said Petrus.

The work stoppages are the most visible sign of a dramatic restructuring in Canada's \$3.84-billion hog-processing industry. In some ways, the pork business has never been stronger—demand for the meat is increasing around the world, and Canadian farmers exported a record three million hogs to the United States last year, a number that is expected to continue rising as consumption grows. The problem lies with Canada's pork processors, whose share of the global market has declined steadily in the past five years. Analysts

claim the industry is inhibited by antiquated technology, and wages and benefits that, on average, are 30 per cent higher than those paid in U.S. slaughterhouses.

Amid the uncertainty, Maple Leaf's McCain is on a mission to revitalize his company Canada's pre-eminent meat processor. In October 1996, Maple Leaf acquired the Western Canadian meat-packing business of Borden Foods Ltd. of Calgary for an undisclosed price. Now, the company has embarked on a \$200-million bid for 10-year-old Schneider Corp. of Kitchener, Ont., currently the country's fifth-largest pork processor. Maple Leaf also has proposed a \$35-million investment in new technology at its Burlington plant and a \$100-million hog-packing plant to be constructed somewhere in Western Canada. McCain's strategy is simple: by forcing the industry to consolidate under his leadership, he hopes to increase Maple Leaf's efficiency and profits.

A key element of that plan is to drive down the company's labor costs. In pursuing that goal, McCain, 37, can draw on his 30 years of experience at the helm of Ploverville, N.B.-based McCain Foods Ltd., one of the largest fresh-food frozen food processing firms in the world. Founded by Wallace McCain and his older brother, Harrison, in 1957, McCain Foods became famous for its hard-core dealings with suppliers and employees. Of late, Wallace was always known as the tougher. Former managers say he routinely fired sales staff who failed to live up to his high expectations. While Harrison played the role of benefactor in the community and often wrote large cheques for local causes, Wallace immersed himself in the details of the business,

striving constantly for improved productivity and touting rival plants in the United States in search of new ways to save money.

Wallace McCain and his two sons, Michael and Scott, still own 24 per cent of McCain Foods, but in 1984 he walked away from day-to-day management of the firm following a dispute with his brother over the same role in the business. Two months later, McCain spearheaded a \$1.8-billion takeover of Maple Leaf. The 70-year-old company boasted an impressive stable of brand names, including Dempster's, House-made and Baker's Choice bakery products, Country Style Donuts, Shopp's, Hygrade and La Belle Ferme meat products and its own lines of sausages, hams, deli meats and seafood.

Although Maple Leaf had a solid reputation, McCain was determined to do better. As soon as the purchase closed, he and his sons set out to overhaul the company and boost its profits, in part by concentrating on higher quality items that could command steeper prices. To achieve its goal, Maple Leaf has invested heavily in new technology, during the month, for example, it acquired a \$4.5-million expansion of a Leifberg, Alta., plant that will soon begin to produce butter-coated french fries ("the hottest trend in North American food service"), and a \$20-million addition to its poultry plant in Kesteven, N.S.

Maple Leaf is not alone in its drive to capture a larger share of the world market for pork. Vancouver-based Fletcher's Fine Foods Ltd. is currently spending \$14.5 million to expand its line of products, including pork chops and loins, at its plant in Red Deer, Alta., while Yvan Y. Canada Ltd., whose parent firm is one of Taiwan's largest meat processors, plans to build a \$60-million plant in Leifberg, Sask. In fact, Vancouver, recently opened a new \$50-million facility in Winnipeg. Fletcher's vice-president corporate affairs, Greg Whalley, says there is plenty of room for additional expansion. "We have every reason to

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The federal government cut the amount Canadians and their employers pay for unemployment insurance. Starting on Jan. 1, employees will contribute \$2.73 per \$100 of insurable earnings, a drop of 20 cents. Employers will pay \$1.78—a 20-cent decrease. But the savings will not be enough to offset increased contributions to the Canada Pension Plan.

NEW COURT VICTORY

Newcourt Credit Group Inc. said it will acquire ADT Capital Corp. of Montreal, N.A., in a \$2.5-billion deal that turns the Toronto-based firm into the world's second-largest commercial lender. Newcourt, which has \$5 billion in assets outstanding, will issue 35 million new shares to finance the takeover.

CADILLAC'S NEW LOOK

In a sudden reversal, General Motors Corp. revealed plans to introduce a Cadillac sport utility vehicle next fall. GM has so far moved out on the strong demand for luxury SUVs such as the popular Lincoln Navigator, which generates estimated profits of as much as \$14,000 per vehicle.

NORANDA SLIMS DOWN

Insurance giant Noranda Inc. said it will sell its energy and forestry holdings and concentrate on mining in a bid to boost its bottom line. The Toronto-based company's 65-per-cent stake in Noranda Forestry and 100-per-cent interest in Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. will be distributed to shareholders as dividends. Its 49-per-cent share of Norcan Energy Resources Ltd. will be sold.

BREAKING A BILLION

The Toronto Dominion Bank reported year-end profits of nearly \$1.1 billion, the highest in its history. The country's fifth-largest bank said its investment banking, brokerage and mutual fund businesses generated most of the profits. TD Bank is the first of the Big Six banks to report its 1997 results.

INCO CLOSES MINES

Inco Ltd. said it will close four Sudbury, Ont., nickel mines and cut 100 jobs next year. Faced with declining nickel prices, Inco hopes to drive down production costs by developing its Indonesian deposits and the massive Vasey's Bay nickel field in Labrador.

Silicon Valley has a small idea

Hoping to catch computing's new wave, manufacturers in the mountainous Cordillera range here in Las Vegas unveiled a host of hand-held computers. With sales of desktop and laptop computers expected to slow in coming years, computer makers believe hand-held devices will be the next big trend to sweep the market. In the first half of this year, computer companies shipped about 1.4 million to retailers, almost as many as were sold in all of 1996. The devices—roughly the size of a paperback—allow users to store names and phone numbers, keep track of appointments and write memos. More sophisticated models can send and receive e-mail, surf the World Wide Web, and download files from other computers.



Will wearable computer be the next big thing?

The \$350 Palm Pilot, produced by Santa Clara, Calif.-based 3Com Corp., currently accounts for 80 per cent of handheld sales, according to market research firm Datamonitor Inc.

Industry giants such as Compaq Computer Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co. and NEC Corp. are now fighting back with \$700 basic-hand machines that use Microsoft's Windows CE operating system, a stripped-down version of Windows 95. Lesser-known V.A. Inc., based in Northfield, Minn., unveiled a computer that can be worn around the waist on a belt. The company said it is engaged to maximize employee productivity, but skeptics might wonder whether millions of North Americans really want to walk around with their work.

Time for an overhaul

Money-losing Specialty Muffler King Inc. is being towed to the shop for repairs. The Toronto-based auto-parts chain says it intends to shut 64 of its 500 shops worldwide, and may be forced to close more. The move affects 30 retail repair stores in Canada, 36 in the United States and 15 in France. Specialty's problems are partly due to the beached acquisition of French auto-parts chain Virage SA in 1995.

"Basically, the company borrowed more than its current inventories allowed it to in France," said Edward Lawrence, an analyst with Standard and Poor's Corp. in Toronto. Specialty CEO Ron Sesto added that the company has been hurt by the use of long-lasting mufflers on new cars and the introduction of extended warranties. The company, partly owned by former Liberal prime minister Jean Charest, plans to offer a wider variety of products, including tires and batteries.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Stock markets in Asia and North America rose after the Japanese government announced plans to strengthen the country's fragile banking system. Japan is a business ally recently by the collapse of two well-known insurance houses and a major consumer

will bank. Investors were cheered by reports that the government would allow weak banks to fail rather than trying to prop them up.

Canada's inflation rate slipped to 1.5 per cent in October, down 0.1 per cent from the previous month. But

the Canadian dollar suffered its seventh consecutive weekly loss, closing at 70.4 cents (U.S.). Analysts at Citicorp predicted the drop by the Bank of Canada's apparent reluctance to raise interest rates.



"Many believe that once the international market stabilizes, the Canadian dollar will begin to strengthen. This is useful thinking. For the loonie to rise on a sustainable basis, it will need a series of interest rate reductions by the bank of Canada."

—Canada West

"Much of the recent improvement in inflation has been driven by the steep drop in borrowing costs. Excluding mortgage-related costs, the year-over-year increase in prices would have been 1.9 per cent in October."

—Scotiabank

The savings rate paradox

Canadians are saving less, but stilling more money than ever into registered retirement savings plans.

According to Statistics Canada, tax payers deposited a record \$20 billion in RRSPs during 1996, a 13-per-cent increase over 1995. Meanwhile, the overall savings rate, which includes bank deposits, mutual funds and other investments, dropped to an average of 0.9 per cent of personal disposable income, its lowest level since the 1930s. Analysts say that high taxes, low interest rates and growing concern over the future of the Canada Pension Plan have persuaded consumers to divert their savings from bank deposits into RRSPs. "Canadians have been choosing to shelter themselves from taxes," says Derek Holt, an economist with the Royal Bank. "And the best way to do that is through RRSPs."

Still, last year's record RRSP tally represented only 13 per cent of the maximum \$175 billion that could have been invested. That includes the unused contributions Canadians have been allowed to carry over from year to year since 1981, when the RRSP rules were re-

vised. Contributions stood at an average of \$4,364 in 1996, up from \$4,110 the year before. Investors over age 55 kicked in the most—an average of \$6,235 compared with \$2,488 for those under 30. The average 30-to-54 contributor was 42 years old. The median income for contributors was \$34,600, significantly higher than the \$20,600 median for all tax filers. The rate of increase in contributions was highest in Quebec and Newfoundland. In both provinces the amounts invested jumped by 10 per cent over 1995.



Doors and windows

It won't print money—but a new software package from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. can at least help consumers decide if they can afford a new home or renovation project. The \$29.95 program, called AffordAbility, spells out the costs involved in buying a house and allows users to explore their financing options. "It's not just a calculator," says Greg Goy, CMHC's manager of local market analysis. "This really focuses on whether you can afford a house."

To begin with, the program conducts an in-depth analysis of the user's financial situation, looking at assets and liabilities, monthly income and expenses. Based on

that, the program works out how much money an individual or couple can comfortably afford to pay for a house, and how large a mortgage they can carry. The installation period, interest rate and other variables can easily be modified. The software also includes a closing-cost function, which allows users to plan for the extra expenses that catch some buyers by surprise.

The CMHC software comes pre-programmed with property tax and utility-cost estimates for 37 major urban centres. "We did a lot of research in organizing that so people could find the features they want," says Goy. AffordAbility is designed for IBM-compatible computers running Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. Information is available by calling 1-800-668-2642.

FORECAST: **SHARE PRICES** Sherry Cooper, chief economist for Nesbitt Burns Inc., in Toronto, says that stock markets in both Canada and the United States will experience slower growth over the next year, although investors will still earn a respectable return. She predicts that the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index will rise 8.2 per cent over the next 12 months to about 7,350. Cooper says the market's relatively weaker performance—so far this year, the index is up 14 per cent—will reflect rising labor costs, a slowdown in exports and increased competition from Asia. Sectors such as financial services, real estate and pipelines will continue to show the strongest returns, she predicts.

Money Talks

Dreams for sale

An estimated 17 per cent of workers in Canada are self-employed, up from 14 per cent in 1982. *Dreaming a Dream*, by University of Manitoba marketing professor Walter Good, is a guide for budding entrepreneurs who have yet to leave the office. The book begins with a questionnaire that allows readers to assess if they have what it takes to go it alone. While some qualities such as creativity and self-reliance are innate, Good argues that many other entrepreneurial skills—including self-confidence and tenacity—can be learned.



Looking for returns

If they were to invest today, most people would choose to put new RRSP money into mutual funds or the stock market, according to a CIBC survey of 1,000 adults conducted in October, just before the recent market downturn. About a third of the respondents said they would choose fixed-term investments such as GICs, treasury bills and bonds.

If you were investing today, where would you put your money?



Homing in on cost

Saint John, N.B., is the cheapest major city in the country in which to own a home, according to Banzheimer Canada Inc., a Toronto-based consulting firm. The average annual cost of a 162 square metre, three-bedroom, suburban home in Saint John, including mortgage payments, insurance, taxes and utilities, is \$11,678. Vancouver was the most expensive city for housing, at \$19,305 a year.

Those who appreciate quality enjoy it vigorously.



Chivas Regal has it

others don't



Peter C. Newman

The new master of the credit universe

The consolidation of serious wealth used to be a gradual process of unfolding possibilities, like climbing a mountain or reading a book by John Robinson Seal. But for these days are made over lunch by multimillionaire investors whose barber could tell what a move in the stock market or in real estate, by entrepreneurs whose ideas and energies are revolutionizing their industries by changing traditional methods and discarding conventional wisdom.

The most aggressive of these new-style business warriors is Steve Hudson, head honcho at Toronto's Newcourt Credit Group, which last week acquired an American company nearly twice its size, through the largest "buyout" deal in Canadian history. The \$1.2-billion transaction, which now has taken over 50 percent of company AT&T Capital from London-based Nations International, moves Hudson, a thoughtful 39-year-old workaholic, into the major leagues. The takeover has created the world's largest publicly traded commercial finance company with a total-bank market capitalization of more than \$6.5 billion.

Hudson has successfully invaded the traditional territory of the Big Six banks, compelling toe to toe with their services, unimpeded by the bricks and mortar of the branch system they have to support. He is the incredibly forceful possessor of being able to do just about everything the banks can do, while excelling at equipment leasing, an area of financing that doesn't lend itself well to the branch system of banking. "In contrast to a traditional bank," he told us last week, "where a customer walks in and gets a loan to purchase a car or whatever, in Newcourt's case, our loans often are not in the field, so that when a Western Star truck is being sold in Kelowna, we're right there at the dealership, or when a Herc aircraft is being marketed in Atlanta, our loans officers make the sales calls along with the local agents. It's point-of-sale financing done entirely outside the branch system employed by the banks. We don't have the overhead, and with the AT&T deal, we are now the captive financing arm to more than 350 companies in the world." The example is Dell computers: each unit loaned through Dell Financial Services is financed by Newcourt, but its secured, amortizing loans are the safest category, because they avoid problematic revolving lines of credit.

After getting a commerce and undergraduate degree from Toronto's York University in 1983, Hudson worked for the accounting giant Clarkson Gordon (now the conglomerate Ernst & Young). There, he did audits for life insurance companies, experience that came in handy at his next job as a financial analyst at Toronto Hospital, in 1984, where the hospital would not loan it money to acquire an MRI machine. Hudson went to U.S. insurance agencies to finance the deal

Seeing an opportunity to create an equipment financing company with money available through the life insurance industry, Hudson convinced some of the hospital's doctors to become venture capitalists with him in launching Newcourt Capital as a way of providing health-care credit. "The insurance companies had been mostly in reverse mortgages, and we provided an alternate form of secured investments," he recalls. "We were there to generate the commercial and corporate loans they were seeking. On a risk-adjusted basis, our form of credit is about equal to mortgages, but more important, it provides them with diversification."

Not being able to beat him, at least two banks—the Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce—have joined Hudson, becoming partners in the Newcourt capital pool, or taking up equity positions. (The Royal had a deal with AT&T.)

Newcourt's success has been phenomenal. The company went public in 1994, the same year it completed its first major deal, becoming the preferred financing source of John Deere industrial and farm equipment, a five-year arrangement worth \$125 million annually. By August expanded so fast that by May, 1996, Newcourt was able to negotiate a \$1-billion line of credit from 23 banks in Canada, the United States, Europe and Japan.

Earnings for that year were \$50.7 million, up 72 per cent from the previous 12 months, and profits for 1997 will substantially top that record. (While Newcourt's new ranks second in North America in vendor financing, with assets of about \$50 billion, it's far behind the industry's leader, GE Capital, which enjoys an asset worth of more than \$180 billion.) "I see us not as a classic driver," he says, "but as a company we have no intention to close that gap, but we do want to be number 1 in our chosen markets. As consolidation in the industry continues, I expect people to merge with us."

The combined Newcourt and AT&T operations will employ 5,300 people. The firm is becoming increasingly international, with only 30 per cent of its 1997 business originating in Canada. Ownership is split among Nations Securities (33 per cent), CIBC (11 per cent), Newcourt employees (20 per cent), and Merrill Lynch (36 per cent). Hudson himself owns a 65 per cent, worth \$125 million, with the rest widely held.

Though he has been the main beneficiary of Newcourt's success, Hudson spends little time enjoying the financial rewards. "Newcourt is my hobby and passion," he admits. "Its progress has been much like rearing a child. Seeing it through its babyhood and teenage years took 70 to 80 hours a week. It's a busy father, like to sleep, enjoy French wines, but try to spend some time with my wife and our two children."

Those who know Steve Hudson well are not awed by his astonishing success. They say he is just beginning his run

Only they know how it started.



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Singer: "I needed
food myself
eating at the
word processor
crying."

The first serious bout was back in 1963, when he was attending Queen's University and, just before final exams, locked himself in his dorm room for two weeks. The next came seven years later, when he was Vancouver-based chief for *The Globe and Mail*; he dismantled the bell on his office and home telephones ("So no one could reach me, but I could still dial out," he recalls), and spent his days playing tennis and walking under the Burnaby Street bridge, contemplating suicide. The last time it happened, in September, 1993, it made the veteran journalist and learning coach visit the talk of Toronto media circles: what happened to Jay Singer? After 34 years of writing a five-times-weekly humor column in *The Toronto Star*, Canada's largest-circulation newspaper, Singer suddenly disappeared. Rumors abounded about how he quit in a huff, about him working as a clerk in a downtown bookstore—both true, it turns out. But what few of Singer's readers and acquaintances suspected was that, behind his evaporation from the Star's pages lay a disease with which he has struggled for much of his life: "Every now and then, I have what used to be called a nervous breakdown," says Singer, 54. "Now, it's called depression."

That, thankfully, is not as shocking an admission as it once was. In the nearly 10 years since the release of *Prozac*—the first and most publicized of the so-called SSRIs (for selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor) family of drugs—there has been a revolution in the treatment of depression, and in the way many people think about it. Even well into the 1970s, depression was primarily considered a character flaw or a result of poor upbringing; to be treated with Freudian on-the-couch psychoanalysis. Now, researchers are approaching a deeper understanding of how depression affects the brain, and of its potential physical and genetic underpinnings (page 60). At the same time, a revolution of a different sort has begun among authors, fueled in part by the recent public admissions of celebrities—among them, U.S. movie mogul Ted Turner, 60 Minutes co-host Mike Wallace, Canadian actress Marcel Koller and singer poet Leonard Cohen—that they, too, have mood disorders. There is a new openness about the condition, and an increasing recognition of its economic costs, as

More than 24 million people worldwide now take Prozac, just one of the five SSRIs. By conservative estimates, more than one million Canadians every year will suffer from any one of about a dozen depressive disorders, ranging from dysthymia (low-grade, chronic depression) to so-called bipolar affective disorder or manic depression, which causes radical mood swings between emotional highs and the depths of despair. In fact, many doctors who treat depression think there is more of it around, although some say it just seems so because the illness is being recognized and treated more often than in the past. Still, theories abound about why depression might be spreading. Some experts blame high levels of stress in industrialized societies, or suggest that environmental chemicals may be to blame. "People cite the divorce rate, the decline in religion, the role of television," says Dr. John Gorman, director of the mood disorders clinic at the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver. "Take your pick."

The tragedy of depression is compounded by the fact that it remains widely misunderstood. True, everyone gets the blues. And the classic symptoms are well-known: loneliness, feelings of inadequacy, worthlessness, anxiety, a longing for death. But anyone who has been issued the experience of what Winston Churchill—another famous depressive—called his "black dog" cannot fully grasp the anguish depression brings. It is usually "hell on wheels, emotionally terrifying," says one manic depressive, who asked not to be identified. "That's why people kill themselves, and unless you've experienced it, you cannot imagine."

Singer's last bout of severe depression began several weeks before his "disappearance." Profoundly, he recalls, he had hit "a really low spell of the blues, like being grinding against a wall. I would find myself sitting at the word processor crying, and I thought, 'This is terrible, I'm gonna electrocute myself.'" In September, 1993, he went on a carrying trip in the Northern Ontario wilderness of Temagami—and decided to pack in his closet, calling his boss from a pay phone. Luckily, then-managing editor Lois Clancy and editor John Hunderbult gave Singer a year's leave of absence rather than accepting his resignation. In that time, he wrote a book on bird-watching, worked part time at a bookstore, and

DEPRESSION

SOCIETY COMES TO GRIPS WITH A DEVASTATING DISORDER

employers and insurance companies people with a history in disability claims and absenteeism due to depression (page 58). And today more than ever, sufferers can find support in their communities, as hundreds of self-help groups have sprung up across Canada, allowing them to talk about their illnesses and the challenges they face in an open, sympathetic atmosphere.

Finally, depression is coming out of the closet. But it still has a long way to go: The statistics on depression mirror the old view about many loving company seem like a cruel joke.



Photo: Michael Newman / iStockphoto.com

started taking Larox, one of the SSRI drugs. "It was wonderful," he says. "To me, it's a miracle drug."

Slinger returned to writing his columns in 1994, and now says he takes Larox only when he feels a depressive episode coming on. "The key to me is that I start thinking about suicide," he explains. "It becomes, all of a sudden and bizarrely, among the things I might do today—I might get a haircut, I might go to a movie, I might kill myself!" But after 30 years of on-again, off-again depression—and with an effective treatment in hand—Slinger says he has learned to accept his disorder, not to live with it. "It's realized that is something that just happens to people like diabetics."

Thousands of others, however, are not so fortunate. Many with depressive disorders struggle for years—and often for their whole lives—to find the right balance of drug therapy, counseling and community support to help make their illnesses manageable. That runs counter to the popular notion about Phasie and other antidepressants which, given all the media attention paid them over the past decade, might be mistaken as a cure for depression. "The new medications have made a spectacular difference," says Wilkes Johnson, a depressive himself and president of the Windsor-based Mood Disorders Association of Canada, a public education and self-help organization. "But there's no rhyme or reason to these diseases, and that's a tremendous challenge for some people. They're looking for a cookie-cutter illness, and there's just no such thing."

In the vast majority of cases, treatment of depressive disorder by doctors comes at less up to 80 per cent of people with depressive disorders will respond to therapy. The irony is that depression is so rarely treated: experts estimate that only one-third of all seniors receive appropriate therapy. Misdiagnosis or lack of treatment is particularly acute among the elderly. According to researchers, only a quarter of people over 65 who have severe depression are adequately treated. The reasons are complex. Physical ailments can mask symptoms of depression—often confused, in turn, with Alzheimer's disease—and



Adverse: **harmful society** still harbors an **antipathy** towards the **mentally ill**

Most sufferers are not receiving proper therapy

that can make it difficult to diagnose. But there are social factors, too, and an incept to belief, even in the medical community, that depression is simply a lack of life for the elderly. Another problem, says Dr. Cesar Garcia, a geriatric psychiatrist at York County Hospital in Newmarket, Ont., is that many elderly patients are uncomfortable talking about emotional problems. "There's a real stigma for that age group about psychiatry and about depression," he says.

Depression comes in many forms, but the one thing that suffers young and old confront is the stigma, the fear or outright antipathy still directed at the mentally ill. It prevents many from seeking help in the first place. And it can make older seniors—even those receiving proper treatment—lead a lonely life. Wendy, a community outreach worker in western Canada's far north, has lived with bipolar disorder for much of her adult life. Her first bout of serious depression occurred at 19, when she dropped out of school and, for 15 years, stopped sleeping and had repeated thoughts of suicide. At the time, her doctor sus-

pected she was pregnant. "And I said to him, 'Pregnant? I haven't even looked at a boy,'" Times have changed. And now, Wendy—who has been responding well to treatment for the past 13 years—is "living a good life." In her job, she gives support to other people with depressive disorders. Still, she thinks about her illness—but not with everyone. In fact, like most sufferers, she prefers that her illness not be publicized. She does not even wear her name on a bracelet. And she still keeps two journals on file, one (which she uses to get her current job) that describes her condition, and one that does not. "The acceptance of my illness, and encourage others to do that, too," says Wendy. "But not everyone accepts this—it could be held against me some day."

As a social problem, depression is devastating in its economic and personal consequences. The national mood disorders association estimates that direct and indirect medical costs of depression in Canada top \$5 billion a year, and depression in the workplace is proving an enormous burden to business and to businesses alike. Due to the illness costs Canadians companies an estimated

\$2.3 billion annually in retraining, retooling and lost productivity. But that's only money. The more telling figure, about 3,500 Canadians take their own lives every year—and another 30,000, by conservative estimate—attempt to. Although the forces behind suicide are varied, depression is likely to be responsible for between 80 and 90 per cent of those deaths.

When Dena Sommer-Rosenberg, a 71-year-old writer, poet and poetry therapist, talks about her son Arthur, she knows she needs to take a deep breath. "But he was a remarkable young man," she explains. "He was a doctor, a wonderful athlete—he had everything. But he also had this dreadful illness." The illness was bipolar disorder, or mania-depression, diagnosed at the age of 17. When he was well, his mother recalls, he "was great fun, and had such a love of life." But in 1982, Arthur suffered a deep depression. Dena Sommer-Rosenberg says she did not understand the significance of a visit he paid to her that fall at her daughter's Toronto home. "A psychiatrist," she says, "I think he came to say goodbye."

Five years ago this November, 36-year-old Arthur took his own life. But his mother was not content to let her son become a statistic. Last January, the University of Toronto—matching the \$1 million she helped to raise through private and corporate donations—established the Arthur Sommer-Rosenberg Chair in Suicide Studies, the first of its kind in North America, and chose his daughter, Dr. Paul Linka, an authority on suicide's causes and prevention, as the first incumbent. For Sommer-Rosenberg, the chair is a way of keeping her son's spirit alive. And although suicide among people with bipolar disorder is startlingly common, with a rate of about 10 per cent, she believes that deaths like her son's could be prevented with better understanding and research. "Some doctors might say no," she says. "But I think any suicide is preventable. I have to."

As people with depression, it is a common refrain—"It's like being alone." Friends and family try to be supportive, but at a certain point it is hard for them to help or know what to say," says Sara, a 33-year-old freelance writer in Montreal who suffers from dysthymia. "Unless someone understands me, it doesn't make sense—they might as well be talking about the weather." Often, too, advice given with the best intentions can do more harm than good. "Some people say, 'Why don't you get out of bed, wrap out a TV? You've got a good job and a lovely house—just get on with it,'" says Wendy in western Canada. "But if we could do that, wouldn't we?" Just two decades ago, there were few places for people with depressive disorders to turn for support—beyond family, or into group therapy sessions. But that is changing. In early 1983, five men and women in Windsor—including Ashdown's ex-wife—got together to discuss their illnesses at the prompting of their psychiatrist, Dr. Jim Brown. So began the Society for Depression and Manic-Depression in Manitoba, the oldest self-help group for mood disorders sufferers in the country. From it sprang a host of other groups, a wave that can only be described as a self-help revolution. Today, there is a national association, regional organizations in every province except New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. Plans are under way to start groups in Prince George, and in many as 800 other communities scattered across the country, from small towns to major cities.

Collectively, the self-help groups provide information to people with depressive disorders and their families. And two separate Manitoba office, fields about 5,000 telephone calls, handles 150 high-school information sessions, and has some 500 self-help meetings every year. Part of the organizations' function, he adds, is to educate the public about depression, and to do what they can to counter the lingering stigma. But their central role is to provide support to people who are confused, frustrated or isolated by their illnesses. "An individual goes to a doctor, gets treated, usually gets better, and then he or she is left alone," says Linka, and is then left alone to face the fact that he is now designated as a mental patient," says Ashdown, 46. "Self-help organizations fill a huge gap."

To the volunteers who work for self-help groups, they can also provide a sense of purpose. Eva, from Thornhill, is 50 now. But she has struggled with her disease since she was 17, when she was an adolescent, pretty with plenty of boyfriends—and sad days. "I used to feel like I was in a cage," she says. "I was depressed, and was hospitalized for six weeks. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder 10 years later, she has experienced it all the medication. She has taken lithium for 21 years, now combined with another mood stabilizer, Tegretol, the cost to her personal life was her first marriage ended in divorce after five years, when she was 23, and the pervasive misperceptions of people around her, even her parents. "I'm still told by my parents, 'Don't let me see you depressed,' says Eva's son, "Tom."

Despite all the obstacles, however, Eva is coping. A big part of that, she says, is her work with the Mood Disorders Association of Metro Toronto where for 10 years she has volunteered as a facilitator for twice-monthly self-help meetings, attended by sufferers and their families. The diseases vary, from dysthymia and major recurring depression to bipolar disorder, but common themes arise: problems with work, medications, doctors and spouses. "It's not people talking down to you, or who have just read something to you," says Sara. "It's people who have been there." Ed, another of our sufferers, thanks the association, an association, is important. "I felt there was not much I could do on my own situation, so I tried to do it for others," she says. "It helps good when people say, 'Thank you.'"

For many, the self-help groups are a good story. In person, she is warm and kind, with a sparkling intelligence. She has had a successful career and raised two children, who she says are very supportive and informed about her illness. And she has achieved a delicate balance of drugs, psychotherapy and self-help for the seven years since her last bout of depression, but her mood has been stable. In that time, she has divorced her first husband, sold her house and moved into a condominium, and underwent major surgery on her hip. Now, she is planning to begin a new career as an events planner, and she has started dating again—a nerve-racking experience for any 50-year-old. But Eva is not ill or not depressed. "I've had times in my life when I've felt like a little child," she says. "But I don't want to depend on anybody, on my children or on my parents. I want to depend on myself." Given the anguish she has endured, that is a courageous stand. And perhaps the most important statement is far from over: those who struggle with the disease can still achieve some things significant, a life worth living. □

HELP IN HARD TIMES

Considered suffering from depression and in need of more help, don't forget to seek professional help, offering support groups and providing self-help and peer counseling. Considered without these areas can contact the Winnipeg & St. James and Winnipeg & St. James Association of Canada at (507) 786-0987. The province's hotline is:

- The Mood Disorders Association of British Columbia: (604) 675-0122
- The Depression and Manic-Depression Association of Alberta: (403) 757-7077
- The Society for Depression and Manic-Depression in Saskatchewan: (306) 366-2851
- The Society for Depression and Manic-Depression of Manitoba Inc.: (204) 786-0987
- The Mood Disorders Association of Ontario: (416) 463-0474
- The Mood Disorders Association of Newfoundland: (709) 486-8546
- The Quebec Association of Depression and Manic-Depression: (514) 529-7652
- The Depression and Manic-Depression Society of Nova Scotia: (902) 530-7176

WORKPLACE SECRETS

COVER

BY SARAH SCOTT

Nobody knew about Heidi Mortensen's dark secret while she was teaching junior high-school students in Steinbach, a small farming town on the Manitoba prairie. She felt it well, behind the efficient manner of her German English and history teacher who was usually in control of the boisterous adolescents in her classroom. But between classes, Mortensen sometimes slipped into the school bathroom and burst into tears, overcome by the shame, guilt, self-hatred and anger that seethed inside her. She did not tell her doctor, and it never occurred to her, the eldest daughter of hardworking Manitoba beef and grain farmers, to confide in the principal. She might have lost her reputation, or worse, her job. "I had to put on a face-act," Mortensen says. "I went through hell inside, never realizing what was wrong."

She was clinically depressed. And like many of the estimated 675,000 working Canadians who suffer from depression, Mortensen kept her illness to herself. That reticence does not surprise Neena Martin, executive director of the Mood Disorders Association of Metropolitan Toronto. Even though the workplace has become the main social centre for many Canadians, it is still "very unsympathetic," says Martin, who has watched her own father battle chronic depression. The enduring stigma of depression makes it risky to disclose the illness to a boss. "People know each other," says Martin. "They lose legitimacy when they're identified as having

long-term disability claims. "This is a true hook just waiting to blow up into disability," says Fred Holmes, senior consultant at Toronto's Pyrrus consultancy. Most of corporate Canada is at least aware of depression, he says—employers are looking for magic solutions when they should be changing the workplace to reduce the stresses that can trigger depression.

For the sufferer, the cost of ignoring the illness can be devastating. In Mortensen's depression was first unrecognized, then unrecognized—and it finally killed her. In 1990, after a decade of teaching, she called to run a business school course, partly to be closer to her two children, Jenny and Krista, then aged 1 and 3. But when her husband walked out two months later, she tumbled into a black pit of depression. "It was like being in an altered state," she says now. "Nothing could reach me. Nothing mattered. The pain was so great I couldn't go on any more. I felt numb. I just knew I had to stop. I felt so worthless, so hopeless."

One day, while the kids were with their father, Mortensen went to a lonely highway in the outskirts of Steinbach and stepped in front of a transport trailer. The driver swerved and missed her. She walked into a field, lay down and listened to the crickets. "I passed me out," she recalls. "I was angry and sad that I wasn't killed." In the weeks that followed, Mortensen tapped into a source of strength and hope: her faith. Raised as a Roman Catholic, she renewed her commitment to religion, and drew strength from a native spiritual centre near Winnipeg. Mortensen joined several 12-step programs that referred to higher powers and offered peer support. It was the start of a long and sometimes bumpy trip to recovery. "Finally," she says, "is a tremendous gift that gave me strength, but it is not for everybody."

Compared with the harm in years of depression, the cost to employers may seem insignificant. And in fact, few em-



Mortensen: "The pain was so great I couldn't go on any more. I felt so worthless, so hopeless."

ployers even understand how expensive it is. A 1994 survey of 25 insurers by Mercantile and General Life Insurance Co. of Canada showed that 19 per cent of all long-term claims (at least four months off work) of a psychological nature. With one single professional group—teachers—the number soared to 42 per cent. Women in their 30s were most vulnerable—33 per cent of older claimants were psychological. Since then, few of the major insurers show psychological disability claims to have risen to roughly one-quarter of long-term claims.

That should start ringing the alarm bells, says Dr. Michael Ross, co-director of Toronto's Centre for Occupational and Organizational Psychiatry at North York General Hospital, which helps employers cut the risk of mental health disability and gets sick people back to work as quickly as possible. "People do best when they maintain a routine, and the structure provided by work is very important," he says. "In a place where we have retirement, part of something that we're productive, satisfied. It's a big

part of self-esteem." But, in fact, family doctors often prescribe time off work without an effective plan to get depressed employees back to health and work as quickly as possible. Ross's clients are major employers that are bearing the enormous costs of having 3.5 to 6 per cent of their workforce absent on psychiatric disability leave. For every dollar they spend on disability benefits, he says, employers have to spend another three dollars for retraining, lost productivity and related expenses.

Some employers are getting staff back on the job earlier by eliminating the most stressful tasks and shortening work hours. After

trying to commit suicide on Halloween night three years ago, Agnes Vondraschak cut her hours as a consultant at a Toronto mental health service while she went through a recovery program at a hospital. She thinks working part time helped her get back on her feet. "With so much of my identity and self-worth tied up in work," she says, "the idea of being able to work was devastating." But employees willing to alter job descriptions remain rare. "We usually go all or nothing—either to work or total disability," says the Mood Disorders Association's Martin.

In a move to catch depression and other mental illnesses before they become costly disability claims, most large companies have signed up for employee assistance programs. They give employees a telephone number to call for confidential advice. They may also provide counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists for further treatment. One-third of all large workplaces in Ontario had EAPs in 1993, double the number in 1989, according to a survey by the Toronto-based Addiction Research Foundation. But while they are helpful, it is not clear that EAPs have curbed absenteeism, the foundation reports. Nor is it clear if they have cut a dent in long-term disability leaves caused by depression.

Many EAP providers insist employees to cope with stress, one of the causes of the rising toll of depression. But some employers are trying to change the workplace to cut the risk of mental problems. On the leading edge are banks such as CIBC, which is a leading technology importer from California that aims to help employees learn to cope better with stress. The bank's program also includes massage therapy, flexible hours, working from home, help with child care problems and training to make managers more supportive. "The flexibility of the workplace and the relation with the manager are the most important factors—physical or mental," says the bank's medical director, Dr. David Thomas.

It has long been known that supportive managers have fewer absentee employees. What is more, say Ross and others, when employees get sick, their relationship with their boss is the key to getting them back to work quickly. "The single most important thing employers can do to affect the bottom-line cost of disability," says Marie Maitreux, senior adviser, medical resources, at Manulife Financial Group Benefits, "is to pick up the phone and say, 'How are you?'"

But first, employers have to face the problem. "We've got a long way to go to eliminate the stigma of depression," in the workplace, says Ed Pien, president, general director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, which has just completed a three-year public education campaign to do just that. It is too early to judge the results, but in Manitoba, Mortensen sees positive signs of change, both in the workplace and in her own life. As she recovered, Mortensen continued working, first in her day-care centre and later as a facilitator for a grassroots organization of mental health support groups. "It's really important to have a purpose, to have something to focus on," she says. "If I didn't have that I would have gone deeper into the hole." Mortensen is in good shape now, and is using her hard-won knowledge to help other people with mental health problems at a Winnipeg residence and recovery centre. □

Long-term disability claims increase as employers learn more about depression

a mental illness, even a treatable mental illness."

But even if most Canadian employers would call rather than lose the problem, they will not be able to dismiss it for much longer. The human and financial cost of depression is climbing drastically in the Canadian workplace, in part because of the height and stress of jobs that demand more from fewer people. Psychological problems, especially depression, are the fastest growing cause of long-term disability leaves, expanding at least five to seven times faster than physical ones. The cost: \$300 million for long-term depressive claims in 1994, and climbing. One leading insurer, Mutual Life of Canada, reports that the volume of its long-term "mental and nervous" claims has doubled in the past decade.

Another disturbing sign: only treatments for chronic and severe cases account for larger portions than workplace entrance plans (both prescriptions for Prozac and other antidepressants). If employers continue to ignore the growing problem, experts warn, they could see an explosion in

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THE QUEST FOR A CURE

COVER

BY MARK NICHOLS

Every few weeks, several teenage girls arrive at Halifax's Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre to take part in a study that may someday ease the crippling misery of depression. For two nights, the girls, a different group each time, bunk down in a sleep laboratory with tiny electrodes attached to their heads. Through the night, electronic equipment monitors their brain activity as they pass through the various stages of sleep, including the periods of rapid eye movement (REM) when dreaming occurs. Half of the roughly 80 girls who will take part in the study have no family history of depression. The others do—either mothers have had major depressive and researchers know that these girls have a 40-percent chance of being victims, too. Dr. Stan Kutcher, a McMaster University psychiatrist who is involved in the study, wants to see whether a feature of sleep in depressed adults—they reach the REM stage faster than others—shows up in the kids. If it does, doctors for the first time would have a way of predicting depression and starting treatment early. Kutcher has been working with trouble if youngsters spend all their life, there is tremendous living to be able to help kids get better," he says. "It's a privilege to be let into their lives."

A pioneer in studying and treating adolescent depression, Kutcher is part of an army of medical researchers whose efforts are bringing new drugs, new therapies and new ways of thinking to bear on this war on the debilitating disorder. One of the biggest breakthroughs came in capsule form when AstraZeneca's Eli Lilly and Co. introduced a product called Prozac almost 10 years ago. The first of a new class of drugs that can alleviate depression without the same nasty side-effects of many older antidepressants, it profoundly improved the quality of life for millions of people. Thanks to Prozac and drugs like it, says Dr. Bill Kennedy, head of the mood disorders program at Toronto's Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, "depressed people are able to live normal, productive lives in



Kutcher in lab: tracking sleep patterns of 80 teenage girls to predict which ones will become depressed

whether their REM sleep patterns point to which of them will become depressed. If they do, then doctors in the future may be able to test children from families with a history of depression, and identify potential victims. One possibility, says Kutcher, would be to begin treating these children with antidepressants even before the first bout of depression occurred—on the hope that it averts all. Underpinning the new wave of research is a quiet revolution that has transformed thinking about depression over the past two decades. As recently as in the 1960s, when Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic philosophy was still pervasive, depression and most other forms of mental illness were regarded as the consequences of emotional turmoil

in childhood. Now, scientists have clear evidence that inherited flaws in the brain's biochemistry are at blame for many mental problems, including major-depressive illness—such as violent swings between depressive lows and manic highs—and, according to some experts, recurring severe depression. Beyond that, many experts think that damaging events in childhood—sexual or physical abuse, poisoned parental relationships and other blows to the child's psyche—may cause depression later by disrupting development of crucial chemical pathways in the brain. "Losses early in life," says Dr. Joe Garfield, director of the mood and anxiety clinic at the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver, "can raise the brain's level of stress hormones that are associated with depression."

When the dark curtain of depression descends, today's medicine has access to quick and effective treatment. Short-term "talk therapies" now in use can help lead a patient out of depression in as little as four months—as opposed to years on a psychiatrist's couch. The purpose of such therapy, says Dr. Helen Corlett, a psychiatrist at the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver, is "to deal with the shoving through that develops when a person has been depressed for a long time." The most widely used methods: interpersonal therapy, which focuses on specific people or life problems, and cognitive therapy, which tries to counter the feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness that plague depressed people. "We try to show the patient that much of the thinking may be undounded," says Dr. David Goldfrank, chief of staff at Toronto's Chedoke Division. ECT measures used every so often in the case of depressed Canadians, including older patients who cannot tolerate some of the side-effects of drug therapies.

ECT's bad reputation owes much to the 1955 movie *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, in which staff members of a mental institution punish a rebellious patient, played by Jack Nicholson, with repeated ECT sessions. Patients still endure painful or drab in the early days of ECT when larger electrical shocks were used to induce a limb-shaking seizure in unanesthetized patients. Electroconvulsive treatment is gentler now. Doctors administer a muscle relaxant and a general anesthetic before subjecting the patient's brain to the amount of current needed to light a 60-watt bulb for one second. ECT's side effects can include painful headaches lasting half an hour or so, and some memory loss. ECT does its job, they say, by altering the brain's electrical and chemical activity. The

therapy has some better supporters, who claim that it can cause lasting memory loss and impair other brain functions, such as concentration. "ECT does give people's brains—that's really the whole point of it," says Wendy Rankin, a 41-year-old Cranbrook, B.C., housewife. Rankin says that after receiving electroconvulsive therapy for depression in 1989 and 2000, she lost virtually all memory—she could not recall even her own name or that she was married and had two children.

Meanwhile, for the approximately 70 per cent of patients who respond to them, Prozac and the family of drugs it spawned—Paxil, Zoloft, Luvox and Sertraline—are making life far more bearable. Unlike the drugs in the Prozac family, SSRIs do not block serotonin receptor inhibition because they increase the brain's sup-

THE ALTERNATIVE CHOICE

Herbalist Chantal Cabera has been stocking St. John's Wort in her Vancouver shop since it opened five years ago, but it is only in the past 12 months, she says, that sales "have just gone through the roof." Billed as a natural antidepressant, the extract from a yew low-growing plant has become widely popular in a time when depressed Canadians are gobbling an exotic array of herbal remedies ranging from ginseng and ginkgo biloba to lemon balm and valerian. At the same time, they are increasingly turning to anti-mathematics, homeopathy, naturopathy and other alternative medicines for help. "Our members," says Neeta Martin, executive director of the Mood

immune system—vitamins (especially the B group), calcium tablets to strengthen neurological functions, and ginkgo, a tree leaf extract that aims to improve mood and mental ability by improving blood circulation to the brain.

The most popular single alternative to conventional treatments is probably St. John's Wort, long used in Europe to combat depression. But does it really work? The U.S. National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., announced plans in October to compare the effects of St. John's Wort and those of a Prozac-like drug and a chemically inactive placebo on 336 clinically depressed patients. At Kiewit, a staff psychiatrist at Toronto's Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, is impressed by the herb's apparent ability to ease depression—and by its relatively low cost about \$10 a month, compared with \$30 and up for a brand-name antidepressant. "I've prescribed St. John's Wort for about 20 patients with mild to moderate depression," he says, "and the response rate is roughly the same as for antidepressant drugs—around 30 to 40 per cent." Martin



Doctors Association of Metro-politania, Toronto, "has increased its alternative therapies big time."

Dr. William Laidlaw, a physician who practices complementary medicine in Chelmsford, N.S., 60 km south-east of Halifax, prescribes antidepressant drugs for the severely depressed. But in mild or moderate cases he often recommends a selection of remedies including St. John's Wort, ginseng—a root extract reputed to relieve stress and bolster the

thinks that the search for natural remedies reflects a "general suspicion of synthetic medications—and that's especially true for people who have had side-effect problems with antidepressant drugs." But alternative remedies can have their own side-effects. St. John's Wort, for example, can heighten the skin's sensitivity to sunlight and may cause nausea as its price for easing the burden of depression.

MARK NICHOLS

New drugs and therapies join the battle against depression

a way that simply wouldn't have been possible 15 years ago."

Now, drugs that are potentially even better are under development, while researchers study the intricate universe of the brain in search of clues that could someday banish depression entirely. "Things are really moving quickly," says Dr. Trevor Young, a neuroscientist at McMaster University in Hamilton. "We're really getting close to understanding the biochemical changes that occur in depressed brains."

And doctors are coming closer to the time when they may be able to start treatment, in some cases, even before depression takes hold. After the Delusional mood disorder from their current series of tests early next year, they will keep track of their young subjects for five years to see



Most doctors praise the Prozac-like drugs

ty of the chemical messenger serotonin. The SSRIs have been the Internet furies with accusations that the drugs can cause panic attacks, aggressive behavior and suicidal inclinations. But most doctors have nothing but praise for the drugs. It's not that they are better than their predecessors at reducing depression—most physicians say they are not.

COVER
Canal therapy can address the 'skewed thinking' of people who have been depressed for a long time

But SSRIs are easier to live with than some older antidepressants, which often caused dry mouth, daytime sleepiness, constipation, vision problems and other unpleasant side-effects. "The SSRIs are better tolerated," says Dr. Russell Joffe, dean of health sciences at McMaster University, "and it is much harder to overdo on them than the older drugs"—a vital consideration in treating people who may be at risk from suicide. The SSRIs can have side-effects of their own, including insomnia and a diminished interest in sex that sometimes gets people desperate to stop taking them. "You just don't get sexually aroused," says Gaweil, a 41-year-old Montreal resident who requested anonymity. "There's just nothing there."

Another problem with the SSRIs is that patients usually have to take them for three weeks or more before they start to work. The reason, when an SSRI increases the flow of serotonin in the brain, the thermostat-like mechanism that normally controls the flow of the chemical shuts down—and then takes three to six weeks to adapt and allow serotonin to flow again. "If you have a severely depressed patient who may be thinking about suicide," says Dr. Jerry Blier, a professor of psychiatry at Montreal's McGill University, "telling

him he may have to wait that long for relief isn't good enough."

After studying the problem exhaustively, Blier and another McGill psychiatrist, Dr. Claude Dumont, proposed in 1993 that the SSRIs would probably take effect more rapidly if used in conjunction with a "other drug that could block the brain mechanisms causing the delay." Such a drug, a hyper-tension medication called Prolorel, existed. And the following year, a Spanish physician tried the combination—and found that it worked. Since then, studies have shown that the Prolorel-SSRI combination can cut the waiting time for SSRIs to take effect to about 11 days. Working with that knowledge, several major drug companies are trying to develop a new generation of fast-acting SSRIs. Meanwhile, efforts to lay bare the roots of depression are being pursued by a number of Canadian research teams.

• While most antidepressants concentrate on two of the brain's chemical messengers—serotonin and norepinephrine—a research team at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, headed by neurochemist Glen Baker, is studying a substance called GABA. A member of the brain's neurotransmitters, GABA appears to play a role in quelling the panic attacks that often accompany depression. GABA's (or gamma-aminobutyric acid) seems to work in the brain by preventing selected nerve cells from sending signals down the line. To find out more, Baker's team is studying the action of two older antidepressants that are used to treat panic, agoraphobia and phobias. They want to find out whether the drugs work by increasing GABA activity in the brain. A possible payoff: a new class of drugs that could some day stem panic by boosting the flow of GABA in the brain.

• At McMaster, Young's team is focusing on mood-depressing cells in an effort to discover which brain chemicals are involved. One approach is to put mice in cages with lights and sound, and observe the mice's behavior. Young hopes to learn more about the signalling process inside the brain that can go awry and lead to depression or mania. He also wants to identify which delicate chemical pathways make that happen. "Once we know more about these things,"

says Young, "we may be able to correct the problems with drugs."

• In Toronto, a Clarke Institute team co-headed by psychiatrist Sel Kennedy and Frances Vaccaro is working with a magnetic imaging device to look at brain functioning before and after treatment with antidepressants. Images produced by a PET scan machine show that, in depressed people, some parts of the brain's pre-frontal region—an area associated with emotion—are less active than normal. Surprisingly, when antidepressant drugs start acting on the brain, these areas become even less active. Kennedy thinks this may be because as depression, the brain deliberately shuts down pre-frontal activity to cope with high levels of stress, and antidepressants may help the process by reducing activity even further. Kennedy hopes next to study brains in people who had remained well on antidepressants for at least a year and thinks "we may find that by then activity in the pre-frontal areas has returned to something normal"—meaning that the brain's overactive condition has been corrected.

The best antidepressants can banish depression—but they do not necessarily protect patients from relapse. Susan Bonag, who organizes volunteer services for the Society for Depression and Manic Depression of Manitoba at its Winnipeg headquarters, had been taking Prozac for two years when she felt her mood "slipping" last March. Her condition worsened to the point where she made what she calls "a suicidal gesture" by drinking half a bottle of rum and passing out on her bedroom floor. Bonag, 37, has stopped taking Prozac and has turned to three other drugs, including Serenol. Bonag's experience, like many others, shows that while the medical community is making rapid progress in treating depression, a way in the neuroscience grip of the disease is still not fast enough. □

Building Our Common Future: A Canadian Tradition



Canadians are making a difference in the world as never before. Canadian diplomats and peacekeepers play leading roles through the United Nations. Engineering, telecommunications and software companies are winning an impressive share of the global market. Our scientists and writers receive international awards and acclaim.



This supplement is inspired by the more than 40,000 Canadians who participated in this year's Partnership Walk, an initiative of Agri-Khan Foundation Canada. The brochure, though discarded, are also made possible by the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Less celebrated is the difference that Canadians are making behind the scenes, in places that never reach the television news. Villages where almost every family loses a child to preventable diseases. Communities where the building blocks of modern life — safe water, schools, basic medical treatment — may well not exist. Rural areas where moneylenders prey on the desperation of farmers who live outside the regular banking system.

These are places where Canadians are also making a difference — a tradition of humanitarian concern that has helped define us in the eyes of the world.



AGRI-KHAN FOUNDATION CANADA

What does international cooperation mean in the 21st century?



As you will read in the following pages, it is definitely not about handouts. It is about working toward goals that Canadians share. It is about creating the conditions for healthy, peaceful and tolerant communities, where there is educational and economic opportunity for all.

Many affordable solutions to global poverty are at hand. While it is the creativity and courage of people in the developing world that will bring about lasting change, Canadians from all walks of life are helping their part.

A Canadian Tradition: The Exhibition

Learn more about ordinary Canadians who are doing extraordinary things around the world at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec. The new exhibit is sponsored by Aga Khan Foundation Canada with support from the Canadian International Development Agency.

A Better Way

WE HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND the consequences of large scale human misery, not only in terms of wasted human lives, but also on our own future. Dealing with armed conflicts, environmental catastrophe and health epidemics costs the international community billions of dollars in temporary solutions.

For 40 years Canadians have helped to show that there is a better way:

- for persons a year, millions of children can be made safe from potentially fatal diseases
- with the help of parents, decent elementary schools can be run for as little as \$20 per child per year
- even in the poorest countries, a combination of credit and training can unleash a spirit of enterprise and greater self-sufficiency

- farmers who depend on the land for survival can be the environment's best defenders, planting tens of millions of trees on barren lands
- improving women's lives brings positive change to the rest of the family and the entire community

On the following pages meet some of the people and organizations that are leading the way.

REALITY CHECK:

According to open-source reports, the average salary is one dollar a month. Canadian: think it spent on foreign aid 10-15 cents.

ACTUAL AMOUNT:

between one and two cents.



Education for All

PLACE: Bangladesh

ACHIEVEMENT: Thirty thousand schools for girls

A FORMER OIL COMPANY EXECUTIVE, EH. Abed has quickly spent 25 years bringing sound management principles to bear on the plight of the poor. Since Abed founded the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) in 1971, the non-profit organization's health programs have helped to slash the child death rate in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, BRAC's rural bank has provided loans and enterprise training to more than a million women in poor rural areas.

Now BRAC has built more than 30,000 primary schools to fill a gap in the government education system. In modest bamboo classrooms donated by parents, more than one million students — most of them girls — get a fresh chance at an education. Effective management, the scale of the program, and the contributions of parents all help to bring costs down. The teaching is done by women from the local community who receive basic, intensive training on site. But they are carefully supervised by BRAC's skilled staff.



Since 1989, BRAC has opened an average of nine schools each day.

CANADIAN CONNECTIONS: Through the Partnership With Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and CIDA, Canadians have made a substantial investment in the remarkable success of BRAC. Queen's University has also upgraded the skills of BRAC trainers.

Brighter Futures

PLACE: Tanzania

ACHIEVEMENT: Half the parents give their children a fair chance in life

"I CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE in my daughter since she has gone to the preschool," says Hafimu Hasini in the melodic Swahili spoken on the east coast of Tanzania. Her four-year-old daughter Hafsan is squirming on her lap. "Now she is always asking me questions."



Any Canadian parent knows that the first few years of a child's life are critical to development. Now social scientists have determined that it is six times more effective to spend a dollar on preschool than on secondary teaching. To do well in elementary school, children in poor areas of the world need to be "learning prepared." In other words, they need the stimulation that a good preschool provides.

What does that mean for the Global Village? It means taking the preschool years seriously, and tapping into the enthusiasm of parents. Funds from the Partnership With Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and CIDA, Canadians have made a substantial investment in the remarkable success of BRAC. Queen's University has also upgraded the skills of BRAC trainers.

What does it mean for Hafsan? For the first time, she can imagine a better future for her daughter.

CANADIAN CONNECTIONS: Sheridan College and the University of Alberta have helped to train the next generation of early childhood specialists in East Africa. Canadian educators have also helped to create and evaluate model preschools in Africa, India and Pakistan.

A Growing Self-reliance

PLACE: Northern Area of Pakistan
ACHIEVEMENT: Cultivating a spirit of enterprise

"It has proved a textbook case of success."
 —John Stockhouse, *The Globe and Mail*

THE PARTNERSHIP WALK SUPPORTS bold efforts to breathe new life into rural areas. These projects unite more than one million people reclaim barren land, generate savings and begin planning for the future.

The spectacular mountain region of northern Pakistan is sometimes called the Roof of the World, but rainfall is scarce, the soil is poor and villages can be several days' walk from the nearest road. The Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) begins with a deal: AKRSP agrees to provide some training and a modest amount of up-front financing. The villages promise to provide labor and materials and set up a democratically run village organization to manage the project and share the benefits.

Independent evaluators, including the World Bank, have been astounded by the results:

- irrigation canals cut through mountainsides
 - bumper harvests of wheat, potatoes and apricots
 - a bigger role for women in economic life
 - newly planted forests and the greening of the landscape
- Access to credit makes living change possible. Poor



pressure replace collateral — each however is responsible in return in a small group. (This peer lending system has been adopted in urban areas of Canada and the United States.)

Repayment rates are eye opening — as much as 97 per cent — and farmers often pool savings so they can borrow funds for a bigger investment (a new tractor, for example) that benefits everyone.

CANADIAN CONNECTIONS: AKRSP received vital financial and technical support from CIDA in the early 1980s when it was still an experiment. Since then, many other donors (including the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the European Union) have helped to leverage Canada's assistance, expand the project in Pakistan, and adapt it to other countries. Many AKRSP staff have received training in rural planning at the University of Guelph.

Generation Why Not?

"People in Canada think of forests as an industry, but for people in India, trees are part of their everyday life."
 —Benon Laberge

BENON LABERGE is ONE of a whole generation of young Canadians who seek challenging global careers that will also make a difference. The 28-year-old forestier from Quebec City spent several months with tribal people in India's Garo state as part of the fellowship in International Development Management (IDM) program of Aga Khan Foundation Canada.



"When I visited Shalpur, one of the Maheer Mandi fields, there were hundreds mostly poor and casual, people were growing, abundant crops, and even for making food. The people, of at 200 families — but almost none it was half a mile from me. Where there had been a single well, there were now 10. Fields were green on 3 sides and green. The first generation of food was more mature than it is now."

—Malik Baftrom in *The Canadian (UK)* reports on his visit to the Shalpur Forest and Development Foundation.

Laberge worked with a local organization called the Shalpur Water and Development Foundation. Over the last 20 years, villagers in the program have reclaimed 50,000 acres of barren land by planting over 50 million trees and building hundreds of small "check" dams that prevent erosion and irrigate previously unproductive land.

Since there are now two or even three growing seasons instead of only one, incomes in the village have increased dramatically. Migration to the city has declined, houses are better — even literacy rates have gone up.

After completing the program, Laberge was hired to supervise agro-forestry projects in Africa (the Rwandan refugees) that combined tree planting and food crops. Laberge has now returned to his studies at the Université du Québec with greater practical skills and the prospect of a career with a global sense of purpose.



CANADIAN CONNECTIONS: More than 100 Canadians have expanded their career opportunities by completing the IDM program, which is supported by the Partnership With, the Royal Bank of Canada, CIDA and by contributions from participants.

Seeds of Hope

PLACE: Uzbekistan
ACHIEVEMENT: Successful agricultural reforms in a former Soviet republic

WHEN HE IS NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL, Yodgor works on the family farm in Gorno-Badakhshan, an isolated region in the former Soviet Union. For the first time, Yodgor's father has the right to farm his own small plot of land, and the family is sowing a new variety of wheat with the help of the Mountain Societies Development Support Program.

"We borrow seed, fertilizer and fuel, and we pay them back with part of the harvest," explains Yodgor.

The early results are promising. Yields of wheat have tripled in many areas so farmers break free of the unproductive state farm system and manage production themselves. With the demise of the Soviet Union, food, fuel and medical supplies were almost completely



lost. By our call to Gorno-Badakhshan, a region that borders on China and Afghanistan. There is still great hardship but now there are seeds of hope which may serve as a model in other parts of the former Soviet Union.

CANADIAN CONNECTIONS: In the first cruel winters after the breakup of the Soviet Union, emergency assistance of medical supplies, food and fuel helped keep the people of Gorno-Badakhshan alive. Since then, Canadian assistance has focused on reforms in the health and education systems, in addition to food production.

Benefits of Being a Good Neighbor

THE ROLE THAT Canadians play in solving global problems has critical spin-off effects here at home.

Breakthroughs we can use in Canada

What works in developing countries, where resources are so scarce, often helps us do more with less too. Low cost health treatments, loan programs for those with no collateral, and the recycling of industrial waste products are just a few examples of innovations that are now being adopted in Canada.

Stability and Trade

The developing world buys a growing percentage of Canadian exports, providing jobs for hundreds of thousands of Canadians. Eliminating global poverty is the sure way to reverse rapid population growth,

avoid war and ease migration flows. Canada's reputation as a caring country also opens doors for business, as illustrated during recent Team Canada trade missions.

Influence

International cooperation increases Canada's influence on vital environmental, political and economic issues. One recent example is success in endorsing an international ban on the manufacture and use of anti-personnel landmines.



Stepping Out!

WHILE ON EARTH, the astronaut Roberto Bonatti, former Prime Minister Joe Clark, Nobel prize winner Michael Smith, and Vancouver Grizzlies general manager Steve Jansson have in common?

They have all participated in the annual Partnership Walk, Canada's largest event in support of international co-operation.

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Health

Spiritual healing

Some doctors see a role for religion in treatment

Shortly after Hippocrates swore his oath to do no harm some 2,400 years ago, someone must have made the first joke about doctors playing God. Variations have made the rounds ever since. Now, after all these years, it seems some doctors are on the verge of officially ending authority to a higher power. In Manitoba, the College of Physicians and Surgeons is receiving increasingly frequent requests for advice from doctors who wish to incorporate spiritual healing into their work with patients—everything from native rituals to prayer and the laying on of hands. The queries have become so frequent that the College is considering drawing up guidelines to govern the practice.

The Manitoba situation reflects the findings of a new survey showing that, despite their years of training in science, doctors closely approximate, and in some cases surpass, the population as a whole in terms of their religious convictions. All but a few Canadian doctors believe in God, the majority pray at least occasionally, and regularly set aside their medical journals to read religious material and attend services, according to the annual *Medical Post* poll of doctors, being published this week. It finds that religion plays an important role in the lives of 32 per cent of doctors (compared with 28 per cent of the general population) and 69 per cent pray at least occasionally (compared with 74 per cent). Just one in 100 doctors call themselves atheists—one-quarter the number in the general population. "When you think about how the 'secular' world view is often at odds with religion," says Andrew Greenville, senior vice-president of the Angus Reid Group, which conducted the survey, "you would not expect to see these results."

The national survey of 5,000 of Canada's 35,000 practicing physicians shows that 22 per cent acknowledge taking their religious

convictions into account when consulted about abortion, and 73 per cent said the same about birth control. The notion that religious views could influence clinical decisions is something the rules of medical practice have long recognized. The Canadian Medical Association, for example, requires doctors to refer patients to another physician if their

feel compelled to accept spiritual healing techniques for fear their doctor will otherwise stop providing their physical care. "That is not to say spiritual healing should not be done," says John Williams, the Canadian Medical Association's director of ethics. "But extreme caution is called for."

Even so, many physicians say they find it hard to ignore evidence that a rich spiritual life can help improve their patients' health. "I see that people who are strong in their faith do much better in their life," says Dr. Randy Radford, a family physician and evangelical Christian who occasionally prays with his religious patients in Self-Care, Sask. Several studies bolster Radford's observations. One of the most recent, published in June in the *American Journal of Public Health*, found that churchgoers had lower death rates and better overall health than those who did not attend services.



Bhayana, spiritually, provides the strength to face difficult problems.

Dr. Verena Bhayana, a Winnipeg family physician and practicing Hindu, stresses patients' spiritual beliefs by using yoga techniques such as meditation, yoga and prayer to help reduce stress. She is rewarded, she says, when her patients report that both their physical and spiritual health have improved. "There are problems day in day that we cannot resolve," says Bhayana, who advocates a greater role for spiritual practice in Western medicine. "But spirituality gives you strength, and we can build a mechanism to face these problems better."

Most physicians also argue that a dose of religious values could improve their own performance. "Doctors sometimes get more power than they can handle," says Dr. Esther Libman, an Orthodox Jew who practices family medicine in Thornhill, Ont. "Religious values can help build a little bit of humility, an understanding that not everything is in my hands," says Dr. Verena Bhayana.

Although he "usually" talks his patients about his own beliefs, he says he prays for help in making the right decisions and uses his faith to guide him through the day. And his experience as a physician has strengthened his faith. For one thing, Radford sees evidence of a higher power in cases where people recovered from, in strict medical terms, they had no hope. "The more I learn about the human body," he adds, "the more I believe it cannot have developed by itself. It is just too complex."



Mosetti (in shadow), Platte and head coach Don Matthews at victory parade on casualties

Small is beautiful

On the Toronto set of CBC's *Royal Canadian Air Force*, Mike (Pinball) Clemens, Doug Platte and Paul Mosetti do what they always do—goof around. Tired at the usual locker-room banter, however, they are cast in a slight about a cable access TV show with *Air Force* regular Don Ferguson playing the host. The three *Thunder* Argonauts, fresh off their team's Grey Cup victory, fly right in—Pinball is a lion, Platte is Mr. Smooth and Mosetti is a natural straight man. The awkward, quarterback and wide receiver, respectively, handle their lines with such ease that Ferguson, playing the thick-necked leather-vested star of "Must's World" as moved to look into the camera and growl. "These guys are good! They are—they tape the segment in one take. Afterward, on their way to a Maple Leafs Philadelphia Flyers hockey game, when they are to appear with the Cup in costume, Mosetti and Platte stop by a Tim-Horley bar for a quick drink and TV postmortem. "Well, it's just nervous!" Mike, usually Platte between lines of a chicken enchilada, "we're used to performing under pressure."

Only a year ago, leaving the Grey Cup championships on *Air Force* would have cut too close to the bone. In 1996, the Canadian Football League was barely only to those who enjoy a good team week—it made a

profit of about \$4 million but spent more than \$1 million gorging up licensing drachmas. The handouts didn't pay off for the seediest team—the Ottawa Rough Riders died—and almost weekly the league itself seemed in danger of collapse.

What a difference a year makes. The Grey Cup game in Edmonton on Nov. 16—the Argos hammered the Saskatchewan Roughriders 47-23 to win their second straight championship—was a financial wash for its organizers, who booked \$7.5 million in gate receipts as hosts of the week-long festivities. The league, meanwhile, landed in a profit of about \$4 million for the season, which enabled it to pay off the previous year's debts and distribute the remainder among its eight teams. More largely lost, there were no on-season celebrations to distract fans from the game. "There haven't been fires burning everywhere you look," said Clemens, a Durawall, Fla., native who is one of the game's most popular players. "The focus has been on football."

While a one-year winning streak does not remake the CFL, the league made a significant comeback and began to make the money not only of the previous season, but also

of its desperate expansion into the United States in 1993. "Why?" "There's nothing like a near-death experience to focus your mind," understates league chairman John Tory. The awareness, viceroy of 1996 convinced team owners to stick to the league-mandated \$2.1-million-per-team salary cap—the average player's salary that season was \$45,000—and Tory endured his unattractive financial media with independent media. Having arrested the CFL's slide, Tory now wants to build league revenues by closing corporate Canada to the sponsorship battle. Most big companies have so far stayed on the sidelines, but Tory is not discouraged. "We have to earn their support," he says, "and we have started that process."

League officials will spend the offseason working to restore interest in eastern teams. While home attendance for Western Conference teams rose 15 percent in 1997, Montreal had a league-low average of 3,500 per game in 1997. And in Toronto, where so many head office sponsorship decisions are made, the Argos attracted an average of only 18,200 fans to SkyDome despite a stellar 15-3 regular season record. But the Argos drew 32,000 for their nail-biting 37-30 victory over Montreal in the eastern final, and more than 18,000 fans turned out for the Grey Cup victory parade. Adrian Watt took an afternoon off from his job with a courier company to cheer the changes with his wife, Sharon, and their two children. "Toronto can be so fickle," Watt said, "but if you like football, you've got to love the CFL."

Without a contract, Platte, who lives in Natick, Mass., in the offseason, could seek out a job in the National Football League. But he has been well-paid in the CFL—thanks to the so-called player rule that expects him to receive from the salary cap, he earned \$1 million from the Argos in 1997—and the Canadian game was his schooling role of play. "I really think I'll be back here," he says. "That's the best location for me." So, too, for Mosetti, a resident of Stony Creek, Ont., who, as the Argos players union representative, knew of the league's perilsous state better than most. "I can't believe how much they turned it around in one year," Mosetti says. "I mean, I've existed about next year already." CFL officials hope he's not alone.

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A fast break out of town

When Isiah Thomas blew into Toronto three years ago to become general manager and part owner of the expansion Toronto Raptors, he had a reputation as big as his ambition. His mere presence gave basketball prominence in a sports town dominated by hockey and baseball, and the Raptors became *his* team. And why not? As a player, Thomas had been a lightning-quick, high-scoring point guard who, though a small man by basketball standards, had led the Indiana Pacers to the U.S. college championship in 1980, the National Basketball Association, he helped transform the lackluster Detroit Pistons into two-time league champions in 1989 and 1990. In Toronto, he promised to do in the executive suite what he had done on the hardwood, and his Hall of Fame credentials and unshakable confidence excited fans and players alike. They followed in Isiah—never. Thomas, once beloved, at least they did until last week when, with the team staggering and in desperate need of leadership, Thomas abruptly resigned and blew out of town.

What prompted Thomas's fast break? The Raptors may have appeared to be his team, but he held only a minority position. Shortly before his resignation, Thomas hinted at philosophical differences with majority owner Allan Slaight, particularly over the budget to acquire players. Later, he admitted that he was partly driven out by the financial border. With a close-percent stake in the team, which is estimated to be worth \$150 million, Thomas had to pay tens of thousands of dollars a month out of his own pocket to pay his share of the Raptors' debt. His stocks, he said, were not that deep, and he couldn't assume some of the risks that his wealthier partner was willing to take. Asked if he was getting out because he could no longer afford the job, Thomas answered: "You could say that." Slaight, meanwhile, denied standing in the way of a contract progress, and he publicly professed ignorance as to what part owned the partnership.

It all started when former team president John Rowe Jr., an Indiana University grad,



Isiah Thomas quits the team he built from scratch

brought Thomas to Toronto. After Slaight bought out Rowe last year, Thomas tried to purchase the team himself—only to see that bid collapse in August. The failure did not sit well with Thomas, who had risen from a Chicago housing project to amazing NBA success. His broad, easygoing grin had always belied a fierce competitiveness, especially on the court—it was Thomas, after all, who gave the Pistons their personality, and their rough (some say dirty) style of play earned them the

Slaight Thomas (left) and many Raptors, including star guard Dennis Rodman, made clear their allegiance was to Thomas

nickname the "Bad Boys." So while he professed no hard feelings when his ownership bid failed, Thomas reportedly told friends that without control, he would not remain with the Raptors.

He has alternatives. A job as a TV basketball analyst with NBC was under discussion, and at a press conference he said he might also look at opportunities to enter other teams. The future is not as easy for the squad he leaves behind. Slaight and new general manager Glen Grunwald, Thomas's assistant and onetime teammate at Indiana, promised to move quickly to soothe concerns among players and fans. That may be a tall order. Attendance at derby SkyDome is slipping, the once-promising team had won just one game by last Wednesday, and Thomas's most recent draft picks—notably injury-prone Marcus Camby—have not performed to expectations. More worrisome than that, many players, including star point guard Dennis Rodman, made clear their allegiance was to Thomas, not Slaight. "Isiah," said forward Wilt Williams, "is a big part of why a lot of the guys are here." And some, far better at words, he's gone.

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Protests greet a former president

It was meant to be an august occasion, the bestowing of an honorary degree on an older statesman and former U.S. president. But as George Bush entered the Great Hall of Hart House at the University of Toronto last week, not all went as officially planned. About 30 professors, in jeans and caps, stood up from their seats and held out the ex-corporate logos. And outside, shouting in brisk winds, thousands of demonstrators held aloft banners that read "Not wanted: George Bush," and "There is no honor in hosting a murderer." But as he took to the podium to receive his doctorate of laws, the object of the pomp and the outrage appeared unfazed. "I would put up with a demonstration every day if I could feel this genuine affection," said Bush to a small crowd that included some prime minister Brian Mulroney and Ontario Premier Mike Harris. That affection was in short supply in some quarters—about 100 in the hall. "This man is responsible for devastation in El Salvador as vice-president, in Panama and Iraq as president," said Sarah Black, news editor of *The Canadian Press*. "This is really depressing to watch."

It was not just Bush's foreign policy that riled protesters. "It's quite obvious to me that this was a payoff," said Black. "I think it's very clear that this was about keeping donors happy." (Scholarship was referred to a \$60-million donation made to the university last year by Peter Munk and two corporations of which he is chairman, Timminco Corp and Barrick Gold Corp. Mulroney is the chairman of the advisory board of Barrick.) Bush is an honorary adviser to that board. But U of T spokesman Kerry Delaney denied any connection between Munk's gift



Bush: angry banners and objections to his foreign policy

to The Family newspaper, Barrick vice-president of communications. Vancorp dismissed the critics' concerns. Munk, he said, "wishes to be in the President's good graces. The President has established an economic foundation for the current economy that is strong—it has nothing to do with the human rights abuses. When it comes to democracy, it's something he cherishes."

and Bush's degree, noting the former president was chosen by a consortium of taxpayers, faculty and alumni, and that Bush "has shown a lifetime commitment to public service and foreign affairs." Delaney added "Bush is on the advisory board at Barrick and was in town for purposes related to that, which made it possible for us to award a degree to him and have him be the ceremony. Further links are simply not true."

The multimillion-dollar gift, which will fund the new Munk Centre for International Studies, has also been the object of domestic criticism on campus. The recent remarks Munk made last year about Augusto Pinochet, former president of Chile, where Barrick acquired a mining company in 1994. "That man, albeit, you may not approve of his methodology, but his mission is to create jobs and change the world. Let's give the degree to the man who in 1973 overthrew a democratically elected Marxist government. Spending

Harsh lessons in music history

A tap across the knuckles with a ruler. An accessory finger and a look about as "stupid." The kinds of disciplinary acts considered acceptable in public schools remain a relatively common aspect of private music lessons, according to a new study by two researchers at the University of Toronto and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Brian meeting 42 students and former students, Len Bartel and Linda Carverman found that half had suffered verbal, emotional or physical abuse severe enough to give them lasting inhibitions about performing. One respondent recalled a piano teacher who "locked me inside the church building, which was beside her house, for about four or five hours at a time, and left her four-year-old son there to man and go and tell her when I was not practicing." Another described a teacher who was "terribly abusive to me in music class, treating at me and bullying me back after class to yell and humiliate." Although the authors did not explore the reasons for the abuse, Bartel suggests that many music teachers feel pressure to have their students perform perfectly for parents and colleagues—and therefore see their actions as "justified abuse in pursuit of excellence."



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The P.D. James crusade

When it comes to the willing detail as the named guests, British mystery writer P. D. James is a master—and not just in her books. Last week, James—whose new novel, *A Certain Justice*, is being hailed by critics as her best in years—was the guest of honor at an intimate gathering in the Toronto home of her Canadian publisher, Alfred A. Knopf Canada's Louise Denryns. Among the guests were a number of Canadian writers, including Michael Ondaatje, Jess Macdonald and John Robison Ford, as well as former Ontario premier Bob Rae, broadcaster Adrienne Clarkson and high profile lawyer Clayton Ruby. Many of them were nodding in solemn agreement as Denryns waxed eloquent about how James has been able to push the limits of the mystery novel without abandoning its conventions. At that moment, James, smiling shyly, made a glowing momentary scene: her throat. The actress growled, bright—then as it reminded the crowd that the central connection in James's mysteries is usually a grisly murder at 290.

James agrees with her publisher's assessment of her work: "I am absolutely haunted by the genre," she said during a later interview. "I love to stretch the form to show what it is capable of, while maintaining the moral analogies of straight fiction." In her hands, a whodunit is always about more than who committed the crime; it also explores why it occurred and what abnormalities of the victim led to her or his demise. In short, it lets James examine characters, whether first of her recurring detective hero, Adam Dalgleish of Scotland Yard, or a villain's. In *A Certain Justice*, a criminal lawyer who successfully defends an unsavory young man accused of killing his aunt regards it as just another case—until he turns up as her daughter's lover. "I tried to write about a psychopath in depth," says James. "I had never done that. I wanted to try to get inside his head." It may seem an odd interest for a grandmother of 59 who claims her greatest joy is her family. But that doesn't seem to faze James. "At 77, I'm just glad to still be writing!"

The novelist in Toronto: a socialization with only victims meet their demise

PHOTO BY JEFFREY MAYER

Love on the set

It is usually not the best policy for an actress to start sleeping with the director during a shoot. He is, after all, the boss. However, **Julianne Moore** made an exception for **Bart Freundlich**, writer and director of a new, anime comedy, *The Myth of Fingerprints*. "It was almost an embarrassment, because I pride myself on being so professional," says Moore, 36. "But we managed to keep everything really discrete, and we were also very discreet—you don't know what a relationship's going to turn into. It may just be very casual." Not in this case. Moore is now living with Freundlich in Los Angeles and is pregnant with their baby, which is due on American Thanksgiving—the weekend the movie opens. It sounds like a real-life sequel to one of her final movies—*The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*.

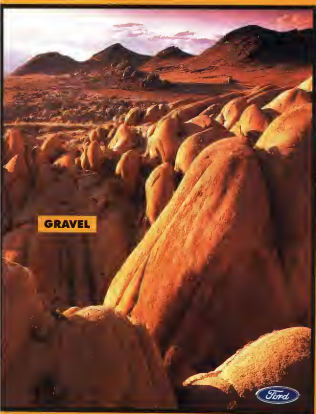


PHOTO BY JEFFREY MAYER

Winning note

Anybody who plays the same make of guitar as **K. B. Lusk** should be prepared to settle in for a long wait. That is because the earliest anyone can purchase a new **William (Gert) Lusk** instrument is the year 2020. The waiting list could grow even longer now that *Herald-Examiner* Lusk is this year's recipient of the \$20,000 Seaside Bookman Award for outstanding work in fine crafts. It is the first time that an instrument-maker has won in the 21-year history of the award. "When I found out, it was a bit unreal," says Lusk, who has been making classical, flamenco and steel-stringed guitars for 26 of his 44 years. "I am delighted that my craft has been recognized." The Toronto-based guitar-maker designs and creates about a dozen instruments a year, which sell for up to \$11,000 each to customers around the world. For those buyers it is worth the wait for a true Gert.

Guitar-maker Lusk in his studio, recognized



GRAVEL

It's funny how obstacles seem to shrink when you're driving one of Ford's rugged sport utilities. Whether it's the rooey Explorer or its big brother, the Expedition, the question remains the same: What's to stop you?

Television

Trading across the border

Cabitt: Being a star in Canada is easy—manageable!

On a Friday afternoon on the Toronto set of *Trudeau*—the Canadian show that reveals merchant bankers and stockbrokers with a labyrinth of unobserved undercurrents—David Cabitt is rehearsing a scene with Kris Halliwell, who plays his love interest, Ann. In the side office room, Ann, a mean deal maker herself, is teasing Cabitt's character, Jack Larkin, about whether he's going to participate in a toothy-freely intrastate sponsored by the firm. "What, you think I'm afraid of 48 hours of head games?" he says in a quietly belligerent way, assuring her that he will be there. When she suggests that opening up emotionally might be good for him, Cabitt/Larkin gives a derisive laugh—low, baritone sound on its side with his usual wistful style that it sounds almost musical. That tension between the controlled and the dangerous is what makes Cabitt's performance eminently watchable—in fact, it earned him a Gemini last spring for best actor as a drama. "Yeah, the laugh—it's scary!" Cabitt adds with a delighted smile. "David is full of surprises." Seen his *Trudeau* costar Sissy Smith. He seems to get pleasure in throwing people off-balance. Sometimes it's annoying; sometimes it's really refreshing. The first scene, we thought, 'Oh, shit, what have we got on our hands here!'"

That sense of unpredictability has helped win the 32-year-old actor a role on the premiere CBS drama *Michael Hayes* in which he appears as the on-the-well-younger brother of a New York City district attorney played by David Caruso. In fact, Cabitt is the first Cana-

dian actor to work steadily cross-border in a Canadian and an American prime-time series. Michael Hayes is shot in Los Angeles, and Cabitt's transcontinental schedule is part of a developmental deal still being worked out between CBS and Miramax Films, the producer of *Trudeau*, whereby Cabitt will star in a future CBS series. As a result, the actor spends a lot of time reading scripts for potential jobs in his commutes between Los Angeles and Toronto. Meanwhile his three agents, in Vancouver, Toronto and Los Angeles, are cooking about for other possibilities.

In short, David Cabitt is hot stuff. With his chiseled good looks and his edgy, all-day *Trudeau* character, he has emerged as the newest Canadian TV heartthrob. "He's ridiculously good-looking," says Smith. "There's not a bad angle on his face." With *Michael Hayes*, Cabitt has secured dual holy grail of most Canadian actors, an American network gig. He spends most weeks work, and full sit on *Trudeau* and then, every second week, hops on a plane to Los Angeles to shoot *Michael Hayes* on Thursdays and Fridays. Then, he returns to Toronto to the downtown apartment he shares with his fiancée, Nadine Gustin, an editor at Sky1, a media and technology magazine. Earlier this year the couple postponed their August nuptials because they were so busy. It all sounds very lovely, but Cabitt downplays it. "Being a star in Canada is very"—Cabitt

grins for effect—"manageable. It's just a matter of people coming up to me in restaurants and saying they like my work."

Of course, the Vancouver-based actor is not complaining. Cabitt's career took off slowly after he dropped out of an interim national relations program at the University of British Columbia in his fourth year. During the next decade, he studied acting—instructors at Vancouver's Studio 58 told him he had made the wrong career choice—and then appeared in small theatrical productions and regular spots on *E.N.G.* and *Law & Order*. His big break came with a supporting role in the 1990 feature film *Alone!* Now, Cabitt is in the enviable position of being offered more than he can take on. One small role he recently agreed to do was that of a noted pedophile in *Major Crime*, a CBC mini-series (Nov. 23 and 24). "I at first didn't want to take it because of the disturbing subject matter," Cabitt recalls. "But the script was good, and I wanted the chance to work with Michael Moriarty," he says of the former star of the U.S. drama *Law & Order*.

Whether Cabitt stays in Canada or follows the well-worn path to U.S. stardom remains a big question. Currently in his third season, *Trudeau* is earning more than half a million dollars on Global and more than 400,000 on the CBC; no decision has yet been made about a fourth batch of shows. Meanwhile, *Michael Hayes* is so far slated for only 13 episodes. Despite the uncertainty about which he'll do next year, for now Cabitt can count on a handsome income. He hands most of his earnings over to an investment counselor—a small irony, he guesses, given the multi-million-dollar deal maker he portrays on *Trudeau*.

The actor says he dreams of working on a quality TV series like the Emmy Award-winning *Law & Order*, and so the kind of low-budget, non-narrative films that the late John Cassavetes made. "All his films have a startling honesty to them—they have that raw American poetry," he notes. "And they are always about love—not love laws, not *When Harry Met Sally* love—but real love, the most important and complicated and complex thing in our lives."

It is not the sort of observation to be expected from someone who keeps getting called on a *Himbo*. But then, Cabitt doesn't world's away from his angry-young-man *Trudeau* persona when he talks back hisrair. He says he wants to return to the stage at some point, citing Chekhov, Plautus and Shakespeare as favorite playwrights. And the subject of acting comes "when you approach the complexity of a real person in a real context," Cabitt adds. "It requires relatively infrequently, but that's what you require to

DANIE TURKIN

Books



John Carlin: a charismatic genius and a difficult boss

The Peter Pan of computers?

APPLE: THE INSIDE STORY OF INTRIGUE, EGOMANIA, AND BUSINESS REVENUES

By Jon Carlin
(Random House, 463 pages, \$38.95)

In many ways, companies are like human beings. They come into being as a result of passion and, ideally, commitment. They are nurtured and influenced by their creators, often reflecting those "founders'" strengths, weaknesses and propensities. As they mature, both companies and men become more complex. Ultimately, they leave the nest and take their place in public society.

Like many young adults, Apple Computer is still trying to decide, 20 years after its creation, what it wants to be when it grows up. Despite its early promise and initial success at revolutionizing the personal computing industry, Apple squandered its potential. While the high technology sector has matured rapidly, Apple remains its Peter Pan—trapped in a perpetual adolescence, with an ever-diminishing chance of making it into viable adulthood.

Jon Carlin's *Apple: The Inside Story of Intrigue, Ego, and Business* chronicles the turbulent tale of the company. A San Francisco-based technology writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, Carlin occasionally gets bogged down in detail and technical information. But he has done an impressive job of reporting and capturing the essence of a troubled company. The author has had remarkable access to internal documents, as well as extensive interviews with an array of candid senior managers who appear to have felt the need for catharsis after years of personal and professional frustration.

The history of Apple is a litany of strategic errors. The company allowed deals with such key partners as IBM and Microsoft to fall

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expert. After that point useful tools leading-edge technology, it completely missed the significance of the Internet. It ascribed to destructive infighting and intrigue, leading to a relatively rapid turnover in chief executives.

But probably the company's most critical mistake—a function of its arrogance and isolation—was a failure to become its innovative technology to outsiders. By hoarding its knowledge in the silent room, Apple blocked the development of broad-based industry

support in the form of software and other compatible products for its users. And Carlson suggests that mismanagement, more than anything, reflects the hubris that has haunted the company at every turn.

To understand Apple and its problems, it is imperative to gain insight into its charismatic founder. Steven Jobs. Along with Bill Gates of Microsoft, Jobs is one of the truly mythic characters in modern American business. He built the Apple prototype with partner Steve Wozniak as his father's

garage. And while still in his early 20s, he started Apple and became a millionaire.

All companies, especially in the early days, bear the personal imprint of their founder to some extent. But Carlson goes further: Apple CEO John Sculley seeing that the company actually bore Jobs's genetic code, his DNA. And certainly, his character flaws are indelibly etched in Apple.

The book's portrait of Jobs, 42—who has now returned to Apple after a 13-year period in which he founded NeXT Computer Inc. and bought Pixar, the computer animation company behind the movie *Toy Story*—is far from flattering. He comes across as egomaniacal, arrogant and abusive towards his employees. He bullied Bill Gates, the head of then-dormant Microsoft Corp., an ill Gates withdrew from joint projects with Apple because "Steve keeps yelling at us."

Jobs refused to license Apple technology to others because of his fierce individualism. He carefully cultivated his rebel image, flying the Jolly Roger pirate flag outside Apple headquarters and wearing scarves and shorts to top-level meetings. That eccentricity and individualism, along with his lack of discipline, ultimately undermined co-operation and team spirit within the young company. Similarly, Jobs's own divisions with technology split Apple between the elite ranks of his handpicked engineers and all the other employees.

Those who followed Jobs after his 1985 ouster were defined as much by Apple's corporate culture as by their own innovations of the market. The most poignant example among the subsequent CEOs is Sculley, who began as Jobs's mentor and ended as his bitter enemy.

Part of the blame for the company's chronic executive chaos can be placed with the board of directors, according to Carlson. Apple's board was dominated by venture capitalists who had little management experience, and only short-term returns in mind. That helped to deflect the efforts of those who refused to see Apple from itself.

In addition to all the dirt on the internal wrangling, the book relates the fascinating subplot of the rivalry between Jobs and Gates. To this day, many imagine Apple employees and users retain a loyalist animosity to Gates, even joking when it was announced last August that Microsoft was buying Apple out financially.

Apple is a cowboy story that should appeal even to those readers who are not especially interested in computers. It provides a rare insight into the early days of the North American technology industry and one of its most innovative companies. Although Carlson concludes that Apple will probably survive, he is less certain that it can ever regain its momentum. At least, not until it decides what it wants to be when it grows up.

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A troubadour does it 'her way'

BY NICHOLAS JENNINGS

Lorena McKennitt doesn't want to sound like she's complaining—but she is. In a sense, "I've been home from overseas for a week and I haven't had time to do more than pick up a quart of milk," says the exasperated singer-songwriter during a recent interview in her Stratford, Ont., office. Adds the street-busker-turned-record-executive: "I was in here at six this morning and won't leave until 10 or 11 tonight. I've eaten in restaurants every day since I've been back and can't remember when I last asked in a pub. It's not a lifestyle I want to continue." Has success spoiled Canada's celebrated Celtic songstress? Or has the will of managing her own career—with global sales of her recordings now reaching the four million mark—simply been too great?

Down the hall, McKennitt's Quintus Road Productions staff is busy taking calls about the boss's latest, self-produced album. Like 1994's *The Mask and Mirror*, *The Book of Secrets* took its creator to far-flung locales—including a journey from Vancouver to Moscow about the Trans-Siberian Express—as McKennitt continues her musical exploration of Celtic culture (which may have originated as far east as the Russian steppes). But the new album is different in several ways. A richer, more evocative mix of European and Middle Eastern sounds, it may also prove, paradoxically, to have the greatest mass-market potential of all McKennitt's five releases. At the same time, the recording represents the work of an international distribution deal with Warner Music—one that the artist is in no rush to renew. Admits McKennitt: "People say to me, 'Lorena, this is the craziest thing I've ever heard. Here you are, maybe at the pinnacle of your career, and you're not going to sign with anybody.' And I say, 'Buffy, I need a psychological break. I've been building this [career] brick by brick since 1985. I'm 40 years old. It's not a crisis, but there must be something else to this existence on earth.'"

McKennitt's career is definitely soaring. Two of her earlier albums, *The Visit* and *The Mask and Mirror*, sold more than half a million copies each in the United States. And that success, combined with major sales in

such places as Spain, Italy and Turkey, earned McKennitt *Rolling Stone* magazine's International Achievement Award. Now *The Book of Secrets*, recorded specifically over 18 months at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios near Bath, England, seems destined to eclipse that. Already, U.S. reviews have called the album McKennitt's strongest and

McKennitt exploring Celtic roots



Music and travel feed her 'insatiable curiosity'

most evocative to date. And one song, *The Minstrel's Dream*, is now enjoying airplay on mainstream rock radio stations in Montreal, Halifax and Toronto. Warner Music Canada executives are confident that the album's worldwide sales will reach one million by Christmas. "Lorena's one of our crown jewels," says Ken Coote, the company's vice-president of artists and repertoire. "She's a remarkable talent with tremendous focus on both the creative and business sides."

Trouble is, that split focus has taken a personal toll on the artist. Carried up on a chair in her office, the exhausted red-haired singer concedes that this is the price of self-

management. But, with folded arms and the sleeves of her rust-colored turtleneck sweater galled over her hands, she is adamant that her course has been the right one. "There's been so much love and passion and energy put into this project," says McKennitt, "it seems ridiculous to relinquish that into the hands of people who might not understand it or care about it to the same degree." Although she gives credit to Warner for helping push her albums into 40 countries around the world, McKennitt firmly believes that the success she is now enjoying can be attributed mostly to her own efforts and those of her 30-member staff, who work from Quintus Road offices in both Stratford and London. "We're driving this thing, cheerleading it all the way," she says finally. "Without significant major-label support, it's up to us to find all the back doors and side doors to reach people."

Although these doors include the use of print and electronic promotion of materials, McKennitt most effectively marketing tool has simply been her talent and an almost universal, word-of-mouth response to it. With *The Book of Secrets*, listeners will recognize the similarity of *The Minstrel's Dream*, based on a poem by Alfred Noyes, to other narrative poems the singer has set to music, such as *The Benny Boy* and *Unsung's The Lady of Shalott*. And hypnotic songs like *The Minstrel's Dream*, with its driving harp, guitar, and the moody Skellig, with its melancholic fiddle and its whistle, will delight fans of McKennitt's more classically Celtic work. But some of the album's strongest material stems from the artist's quest to find the roots of Celtic culture. *Massa Plo*, a stirring, otherworldly song of druidism and string players, was sparked by an exploration of Sufism, the mystical offshoot of Islam. And the dark *Daddy's Paper* uses a chilling piece of Russian Orthodox choral music to convey the desperation of people who witness on her Siberian train trip. Throughout, McKennitt sings in her haunting soprano, occasionally providing accompaniment on harp, accordion or piano.

McKennitt, whose interests range from archeology to urban design to even ornate art studies, seems at times as much a scholar as a musician. Her new CD booklet includes journal-like entries, detailing her

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MUSIC

travels through not only Russia but also Italy, Greece and Turkey, and the discoverer she made while researching each nation. Listeners can even write to Quilley Road for a complete bibliography of the books that influenced McKenney, including such essential tomes as William Eamon's *Secrets and the Search of Nature*. While that may all sound rather lofty for pop music, McKenney says she actually never herself on a kind of travel writer, putting to music what some of her favorite authors—Paul Theroux, Bruce Chatwin and Jim Morris among them—do with prose. "What I'm really doing," she adds, with a laugh, "is making up for my lack of formal education after high school. I have this insatiable curiosity and I've found a way through travel and music to feed it."

McKenney's passions for history extend to her personal life. Her Stratford office is on the second floor of the town's former newspaper building, part of a new built in 1981 when McKenney and others recently fought to have declared historically significant. As the new occasion when she is heard, McKenney lives with her two dogs in an 1830 stone farmhouse, on 300 acres south of Stratford, which she purchased three years ago. Being able to get involved in local issues, something she did when she first moved to the distant town in 1983 is often to take part in Stratford Festival productions, as part of the reason McKenney wants a break. "I want to be able to go to concerts and be part of the community," she says. "I want to enjoy my neighbors and be a normal person. And I'd love to get involved in the festival again, but my current life doesn't allow for that."

After completing *The Book of Secrets*, McKenney had figured out a way of taking time off before starting. Then she saw the artwork for the CD fall behind schedule, jeopardizing the release date. The record executive in her took over. She probably postponed her plans. While she fell into a set to work putting things back in order. "I didn't have the heart to watch the record die," she says, "not when I'd spent so much time researching and recording it." For now, McKenney intends to see through the marketing plans for the album, including flying her Stratford staff to London to meet their English counterparts as what she calls Quilley Road's "unconventional convention." Then she has to decide whether she's going to go through with an Italian television project and tours of Europe and North America next year. It's not going to be as easy choice for the artist who has done it all her way and won a beautiful following in the process. But clearly, searching has to go. "Maybe I can shift my activities to perform in for theatre or scoring for films," McKenney speculates. "All I need is something that takes me less away from home." □

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Theatre

Heartbreak motel

Everyone knows this room. It's a needy, ailed somewhere on the edge of a North American city. The picture window is shattered in suggestor drapes. The blood-stained furniture has a disconcerting look, and the broadloom is none too clean. Recreated with painful accuracy in Toronto's Factory Theatre by designer Shana Korman, the room is the setting for *Suburban Motel*, a series of six new plays by Canada's master of black comedy, George F. Walker. Three of the works—*Adult Entertainment*, *Problem Child* and *Criminal Goals*—are currently running. Three more will open next spring. And because the set never changes, the characters who venture to two or more of these shows may well experience a strangely compelling sense of universality. Vastly different characters may pass through this room, but they are all governed by the same basic needs. They make love and sleep in the same seamy bed. They use the same tiny sink. And, like being Walker country, they all argue persistently, with a profane violence that leads a mythic violence to their struggles.

It is now eight years since the 50-year-old, Toronto-based author last launched a new play. That was the award-winning *Love and Anger*, which engaged a nine-month run in Toronto before being successfully staged in cities across the continent. Then, in 1994, Walker directed and co-produced a large-scale Toronto remount of his 1988 hit, *Nothing Sacred*, a money-busin' venture that left him exhausted and disillusioned. He would never write another play. Instead, he turned to television. He wrote for one season of *Dave Smith*, but found the experience too much like working on a script assembly line. "They're producing one of my scripts this year in the new show," Walker says during an interview at the Factory Theatre, adding with amusement, "Not one single line of script made it to the screen." He was largely working as a consultant for Ken Finkleman's now-defunct *The Newsroom*. "It was a blast," he recalls. "All I had to do was talk while Ken filled up note cards." Says Walker with a double-



Walker: an affinity for people in the margins

Trouble never checks out of a rowdy new six-play cycle

"You're very keen on this idea of counselling, but I can't seem to sell it to anyone else."

So why did he return to the theatre, with its low-budget headaches and pay scales? And why did he write six plays? It was, he says, because of the roles: "I hear three voices talking in my head," he explains. "A prescient husband, and I have to write down what they're saying. It's a bit like being schizophrenic, I guess, only healthier."

Walker wrote two of the plays in Toronto, and the final four in Vancouver, where he and his wife, actor Susan Pardy, and their two daughters, Courtney, 12, and Kate, 6, spent last year. Walker used to look up at a card in the Vancouver Public Library, looking down at his head and what the signs were telling him. To rest, he would sit in the steam and observe the parade of urban dwellers. Walker has always been down to people on the fringes of society. *Suburban Motel* is filled

with poor people of various stripes, including several drug addicts and petty criminals—as well as a few down-on-their-knees members of the middle class. "The actors imagined these characters because, the more I'm down to them," says Walker, who grew up in Toronto's working-class east end, "the more such people are not only marginal in society, but in contemporary drama as well. Most people running theatres in this country would have to come a great distance to like these characters. They don't even know who they are. They read the play and go, 'What's he writing about? Who are these people?'"

At the thought, Walker's eyes brighten with a look at sardonic scathing and humor. But although his well-developed sense of social justice (or classism?) informed many of his previous plays, *Suburban Motel* seems to represent an escape from his old impulse to change the world for the better. "A few years ago, writing plays like *Escape from Happiness*, I was looking for the light," he says, gesturing with both hands towards the ceiling. "But writing *Suburban Motel*, I stopped looking for anything. I wrote people to improve anyone, to make art, or find an answer. I just set the characters loose and let them speak from the heart. I found it very liberating."

It shows. Walker, who directs all three of the currently running plays, has never written with more total brilliance. All his foul-mouthed, yellow-banned vulgarity, his deepened and humanized by a master power of character studies. In *Problem Child*, for example, his usual complement of many characters is surrounded by the presence of two far more well-rounded and sympathetic ones: R.J. (Shawn Doyle) and his dragadictic wife, Denise (Kristen Thomson), are living temporarily in the motel while they rebuild their lives after losing their baby to the Children's Aid Society. Denise wants desperately to get her luck, but must negotiate with the hopelessly flaky Children's Aid Society worker Helen (Nola Augustson). Wonderfully acerbic, the play rides on the potlatch, breaking wave of a mother's need—poised between

A similar tension electrifies *Adult Entertainment*, about a playboy's crush on Mike (Layne Coleman), whose love for a stand-out lawyer, Joyce (Kasia Baberman), leads him to crime. Watching this play (and even the shallow but hilariously funny *Criminal Goals*) is a good excuse to see Walker at work, as he shows his mastery of the theatre's language to society's failures. They face existence much more nakedly—and therefore more interestingly—than the well-to-do. But at the same time, these characters achieve a disturbing relevance. No one, it seems, can avoid a topical clash with trouble in the old motel room of the heart. Or as Walker puts it: "I guess what I'm thinking is that we're all pathetic, but we should keep struggling anyway. I really really believe that."

JOHN BENDROSE

Voodoo in vain

Narrative hoecus-poecus can't save this adaptation

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL
Directed by Clint Eastwood

It is a true tale of murder, gay sex and black magic in the Deep South, with an escalation as thick as Spanish moss. Joe Williams, a gay magazine in Savannah, Ga., tells a young hunter while hosting his annual Christmas party, one of the town's most elegant soirees. Other characters include a voodoo priestess, a black-drag queen and an old cat who wanders around town with a nail of poison in his pocket. What's remarkable is that a skilled director, Clint Eastwood, has turned these waxy elements into such a hideous gem. John Berendt's "nonfiction novel," *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, has spent almost four years on *The New York Times* best-seller list. Screenwriter John Lee Hancock, who adapted it for the screen, initially resisted the assignment, declaring "This book insists adaptation the way a cat resists a bath." As it turns out, his first instincts may have been correct.



Spooky (left), Hancock: a journalist at ground zero of a crime scene

Attempting to conjure up Savannah's spooky, eccentric charm, Eastwood meticulously crafts his scenes at the pace of a southern drawl. But rather than conveying the language and magic of the Deep South, the film looks deep asleep. Stretched over 2 1/2 hours, it is slow, plodding and pretentious. *Midnight* is the 30th movie that Eastwood has directed, yet only the third in which he has not acted (after *Braveheart* and *Shogun*). In fact,

there would be no part for him, because the story lacks a strong protagonist. Williams (Kevin Spacey) is the most intriguing character but remains mysteriously inscrutable. And John Kiefer (John Cusack), a fictionalized version of the author, is basically just a man writing a book. He first comes to Savannah from New York City to do a magazine piece about Williams and his legendary Christmas party. Suddenly he finds himself at ground zero in a crime scene, surrounded by all the elements of a northern gothic novel. "This place is fantastic," he says. "It's like *Gone with the Wind* on a spaceship."

Although Cusack is credible, he has to spend most of the movie simply reacting to things around him with awkward, disbelieving dialogue. Attempts to piece up the writer's life for the screen seem bogus—notably a half-baked romance subplot with a party girl named Mandy (Alicia Eastwood, the director's daughter). Pursuing some life into the movie, drag queen Lady Chablis plays herself with show-stopping flair. But eventually, even she gets to be a drag—a cute diversion in an anti-climactic courtroom drama. Williams's lawyer (sung up last when he tells the jury "If some TV writer were to come to Perry Mason with this case, he'd say, 'Well, that's not a very good story'") Eastwood may get some credit for subverting his much-loved genre with a gay sensitive work on the wild side, but this *Midnight* stroll is strangely pedestrian.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Disputin' Rasputin

ANASTASIA
Directed by Alex Proyas and Gary Goldman

With its first full-length animation, Twentieth-Century Fox is clearly aiming for a Disney-like blockbuster. Three years in the making, with a \$65-million budget, *Anastasia* features prominent actors' voices (Meg Ryan, John Cusack) and the efforts of 235 animators—some 40 of them Canadian—under the direction of Don Bluth and Gary Goldman, the hugely successful team that made *An American Tail* and *The Cat in the Hat* series. The result of all that money and talent is a glittering package, all shiny surface but empty inside.

Good films—notably Fox's 1996 *Anastasia*, starring Ingrid Bergman—have been made from the persistent legend that says the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II survived the Bolshevik execution of her family in 1918. The animated version follows that movie's plot: amnesiac women, persecuted by a cat man to impersonate the princess, turn out to be the real thing—then gives

it all up for love. But in the unsuitable world of children's films, it seems that psychological suspense has to give way to action. Meg Ryan's unsuspecting character is pursued by the evil Rasputin, but the attempts on her life are assumed to be accidents—a flaw that drains the film's dramatic tension. Instead, a predictable romance develops between the cat man and Anastasia, who remains ignorant of her identity throughout most of the story.

What little energy animates *Anastasia* is provided by one of the more bizarre villains of recent years, the mad—and deceased—Rasputin, kept lurking about only by his malice. Yes, the bad guy is dead, and little bits of him seep back, but he still keeps falling off and has to be slugged back into place. Considering the evil reputation of the real Rasputin, it is curious to depict the screen villain as more comical than menacing. But the disorienting mythic slippage routine is only one of the gaffes in *Anastasia* that leave adult viewers bewildered. No one expects a children's movie to boast historical accuracy as a cardinal virtue. But to portray the Czar in 1918 as the popular ruler of a contented empire, or to attribute the Russian Revolution to a curse by Rasputin, is revisionism worthy of Stalin. Or Disney.

BRIAN KATHLENE



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Allan Fotheringham



See the purple hornets swarm poor Spud

It's 2:13 in the House of Commons and the Liberal MP for Louisa West comes over and kisses Herb Dhaliwal, the national revenue minister from Vancouver. She Barnes is wearing a flash pink suit, a flash of color in a drab mass of blue serge and funeral black.

From behind the curtains on the Liberal benches, Rex Cloutier (Kootenai/Neponago/Tenikwek) wears a dreadful white hat to huddle in the back row. It's 2:15 and Preston Manning, in dark blue Armani, demands to know how long "the long-suffering Canadian public" must put up with this postal outrage. There are 50 kids in the public gallery behind the Speaker's chair.

The Prime Minister, stopping off in Ottawa for a brief visit between Ottawa and Vancouver, mees on his lead legs to say, "They have a right to strike." He has an obvious tan from Aspen golf courses.

It's 2:21 and the Liberal-ally-cuddled David Collette, the silver transport minister, arrives. Among the 60 seats in the press gallery, there are size life bodies. The col-oval-the-month is purple people. That would be the path of the much-mourned Dr. Betsy Fry of Vancouver (Malchuthra), Status of Women, (bibi Mabi) and Christine Stewart, the endangered environment minister who will melt down in Kyoto. Also, across the floor in the Blue-chips division, Pauline Picard (Brennanm).

It is 2:25 and a pure girl brings a glass of water to Deputy Prime Minister Betsy Gray who, the Prime Minister told the Parliament story Press Gallery Macleay's lieutenant, he was going to smooch as his successor in 2000—where Gray herself, as he is known, would be 70.

Nicola McDougall, also in flower-olive-mouth purple, attempts to beat up on Toronto's Jim Peterson (Wiflowick) who promises himself to be the finance minister in a Paul Martin government. Peterson, from his second-row perch, declares her as "the leader of the fourth party." Martha, the prime-minister-on-waiting, front has front row two seats away from the alleged PM. Horns and roses has glass in salute to his prince.

It is now 2:31, and Deborah Gray (Edmonton North)—the most entertaining and lovable specimen among this whole dreary mob—is now on her hind legs and beating up on Labor Minister Lawrence



Macleay over the postal mess ("seven months of negotiations"). Macleay, a potato farmer from Prince Edward Island and so, as usual, he's known in the House as "Spud."

He seems quite carefree, gay and, since this day the Opposition rubble haven't any real meat to chew on, they spend the day punning poor Spud. He gives the air of an innocent who has suddenly been attacked by an entire swarm of hornets and, indeed, he attempts to smother them, wondering why he should be the centre of attention for the first time in his life. The old boys on the front bench, the PM, Martin, etc., watch him, amused, as he fails.

It is now 2:39 and *The Globe and Mail* reporter arrives in the press gallery. There are only seven bodies left. The Reform benches are a sea of Top Top (tall) tall suits. Two of the clerks below the Speaker's chair work on laptop computers. The kids above, spalled at the noisy, shouting disgrace below, fix their gallery seats.

MP Cloutier, visibly bored in the back row, wins the reward for the worst shirt of the day, a red and white shocker that looks like something out of a Las Vegas carry show. A pure girl brings a second glass of water to John Reynolds (West Vancouver/Summit Coast) who used to be a Tory backbencher, then a Social Credit MLA in Victoria, then Speaker of the legislature there and now who's miserably unwell in the delta's etheric region, a speech fever or necking a chanter.

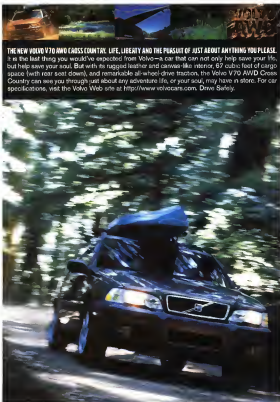
Bored MPs, tired of the ice-TV face room behind the curtains at the back. Atherosclerosis, blond in the press gallery, is handed a note, by a security guard from an MP down on the floor. But

blushes and hides it under her neckbook. There are now three kids left in their seats above. Title for worst haircut belongs to Liberal MP Tony Valeri (Stoney Creek).

It is now 2:43 and Preston Manning leaves. The rising star of Reform, wiseacre young Nicole Solberg (Medicine Hat) rises to live up on Spud ("840 million a day lost"), yet again about the postal PM-on-waiting Martin, wearying of it all, goes up at the press gallery and—declaring a recent divorce—raises his hand in a gracious salute, rather like an admirer in a duel, knowing one of the other is going to counter the victor.


It is now 2:52 and young Peter Macleay (Pickton/Adamsburg/Guyborough) rises to his feet as the "Tory benches, fulminating loudly about this disgraceful RCMP 'ongoing criminal investigation' into the 18th at Malvern/Scarborough/Vancouver force. Peter happens to be the son of a former MP Elmer Macleay who, by happenstance, voluntarily gave up his seat to allow Mr. Malvern to get into the Commons. He has a broken arm in a cast, hopefully not the result of a collision with the RCMP medical ride.

It is 3 p.m. Speaker Gib Parrott asks "his colleagues to observe a special day" since "one of our table officers is retiring after 27 years." There is total silence. It is the only one of the day.



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